

Wednesday May 6 1998

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The Guardian

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INTERNATIONAL
NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

How a brutal killing shattered the Pope's army

Murder at the Vatican

G2 with European weather

Jim White meets blonde ambition

Boom-bang-a-bang, it's Ulrika for Europe

G2 pages 10/11

Pollution

Cornish oysters going to waste

Society, G2 pages 12/13

Exposed: the TV drugs fake

Carlton's film deceived millions

Michael Sean Gillard and Laurie Flynn

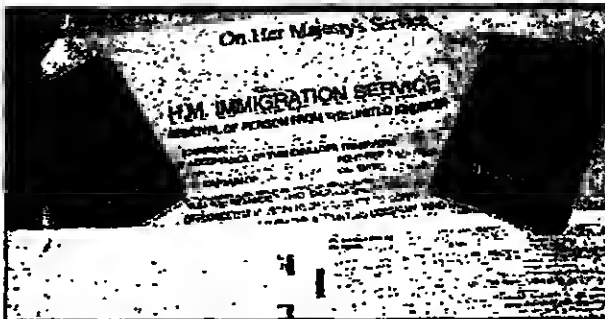
AN AWARD winning documentary by Carlton TV which purported to penetrate Colombia's Cali drugs cartel and track a new heroin smuggling route to London is today exposed by the Guardian as a fake.

The hour-long programme claimed an exclusive interview with a leader of the Cali cartel, the most feared criminal drug organisation in South America; filmed a drugs courier, known as a mule, swallowing packets of heroin; and then covertly filmed him on a British Airways flight to Heathrow. The documentary said this was evidence of a new heroin route to Britain which targeted



ed children and which British drug enforcement officers knew nothing about. A six month investigation by the Guardian in Europe and Colombia, during which the key players were traced and vital documents obtained, shows that these claims were all false. The programme contained at least five major deceptions:

- the mule did not have drugs in his stomach when he flew to Britain
- he was stopped by Customs and deported - contrary to claims that he got drugs through to London
- the man described as the No. 3 in the Cali cartel was a retired bank cashier with low level connection to the drugs underworld. He was filmed in disguise at what was said to be an unknown location after the film crew made a blindfolded journey under armed escort. The location, however, was director Marc de Beaufort's hotel room
- The journey from Colombia to London, presented as a continuous 24 hour trip, was filmed in two legs, six months apart
- Far from the mule's London flight being a drug-smuggling mission arranged by the Cali cartel, his ticket was bought for him by the programme's producer.



The documents on the fake mule's run to Heathrow

Last night Carlton Communications, in a statement released by Nigel Walsley, director of broadcasting, said: "The Guardian has properly drawn to our attention allegations about this programme which so far we have been unable to substantiate. It has raised new issues which we will investigate fully and make the results public. We

have offered the Guardian full co-operation and access and hope they will reciprocate." The programme was based on interviews with minor players in the Colombian drugs market who now contradict the statements broadcast by Carlton. They say they were paid by a Colombian researcher employed by Carlton to play the parts of

drug traffickers. Carlton's legal department has conceded that this was possible but denies that the company authorised payments. Documents in the possession of the Guardian show that Carlton's then head of documentaries, Roger James, and the company's compliance officer and head of legal affairs, Don Christopher, were given a statement by the researcher six days before transmission in October 1996. In a series of grievances she had against Carlton involving money, she referred to "the fake mule".

Documents in the possession of the Guardian show that Carlton's then head of documentaries, Roger James, and the company's compliance officer and head of legal affairs, Don Christopher, were given a statement by the researcher six days before transmission in October 1996. In a series of grievances she had against Carlton involving money, she referred to "the fake mule".



Palestinian President Yasser Arafat: "I cannot say that the London talks failed. Time is needed in order to achieve an agreement." PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL HACKETT

US sets ultimatum for peace progress

Ian Black
Diplomatic Editor

THE United States moved to avert the collapse of the Middle East peace process last night by inviting Benjamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat to Washington next week - but only if they can first agree on the scale of Israel's next withdrawal from occupied Arab territory. After two days of talks in London, Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, issued what was effectively an ultimatum by saying that the Israeli prime minister and the Palestinian Authority president had to agree terms laid down by Washington. "We have a strategic opportunity to put the peace process back on track and we cannot afford to lose it," she told reporters as the two Middle Eastern leaders left Britain without having met each other.

Precise details of US "bridging" ideas have not been officially published but according to extensive leaks they require Israel to hand over a further 13 per cent of the West Bank to Palestinian rule in exchange for tougher action by Mr Arafat against Islamic militants. "The invitation to the Washington meeting is on the basis of those ideas and watering them down is not in the works," Mrs Albright insisted. Mr Netanyahu, constrained by his own fractious right-wing cabinet and personal dislike of a deal he inherited from his murdered Labour predecessor, Yitzhak Rabin, has said he can pull his troops back from only 9 per cent of the territory. But he has not yet faced the sort of significant pressure that Washing-

ton may now be forced to contemplate. Mrs Albright had billed the London talks as being "decisive". But there was little movement on Monday and by noon yesterday crisis was threatening. Palestinian officials, the gloomiest of the three negotiating parties both publicly and privately, were briefing journalists that nothing had been achieved. But after Tony Blair held second separate meetings with Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat, Downing Street issued a strong denial that the talks had collapsed. "There is not yet a breakthrough, but there is not breakdown either and there turn to page 2, column 8

Snub for Brown as Malaysian PM too busy to talk



Adverse British press blamed for refusal to meet Chancellor

Mark Atkinson
in Kuala Lumpur

THE Malaysian prime minister, Mahathir Mohamad, yesterday delivered a snub to the West when he refused to meet Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, who is in south-east Asia to assess the region's economic crisis before a crucial meeting of the world's industrial leaders this weekend. Although a meeting was never formally scheduled, embassy officials are understood

to have requested talks with Dr Mahathir - who blames Western speculators for Asia's financial crisis - but his schedule was "impossibly" fixed, according to diplomatic sources. Dr Mahathir's decision not to meet Mr Brown was also thought to be linked to his anger at British press coverage of recent riots in a Malaysian detention centre for illegal immigrants. The Observer and the Independent newspapers have alleged that detainees were poisoned and tortured. Incensed

by the claims, Dr Mahathir has banned the sale of the two newspapers in Malaysia. He has also threatened further unspecified action against the papers. The same threat has been made to charities in Malaysia which have drawn attention to the treatment of illegal immigrants. The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees yesterday added its voice to criticism of a deportation campaign which it said was at odds with international practice. Fiercely pro-Mahathir youth groups staged a peaceful protest against the British media at the British High Commission yesterday, urging the Government to clamp down on the papers.

Asked by local reporters about the issue at a press conference yesterday, Mr Brown said: "The British Government has no direct role in relation to the British media. That's a matter for British newspapers and if there are complaints about British newspapers, they are put to the British newspapers. It's not a matter for the British Government what British newspapers say." Instead of meeting Dr Mahathir, Mr Brown, who is travelling ahead of this weekend's G7 finance ministers' meeting on the region's crisis, met the deputy prime minister, Anwar Ibrahim, who is

regarded by the West as a more progressive figure. While Dr Mahathir plays the nationalist card against International Monetary Fund interference in Malaysia, Mr Anwar is said to have had secret meetings with IMF representatives. In what could be interpreted as a snub to Dr Mahathir, Mr Brown went out of his way to praise Mr Anwar, saying: "He is a figure of great stature on the world economic stage." On Monday the Chancellor met the president of South Korea, unions and business representatives. He is due to fly to Jakarta today to meet President Suharto of Indonesia.

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Sketch

PM's brand of fizz hard to swallow



Simon Hoggart

WHEN life gives you a lemon, the Americans say, you should make lemonade. Handed the Lemon as Big as the Ritz — the cock-up over the European Central Bank — Mr Blair made enough gassy pop to quench the thirst of every finisher in the Tehran Marathon.

Frankly, I thought he overdid it. It's one thing to make the best of a disaster, another to claim that it was a diplomatic triumph. No wonder the Tories gave him the toughest reception he's had since he first came to the dispatch box.

As Mr Blair put it — and I paraphrase — the Dutch banker, Mr Duisenberg, didn't even want to stay in charge of the bank for the full eight years, as the Maastricht Treaty demands. Perish the thought. In fact, 10 minutes would have been quite long enough.

Realising the problem, the French — always anxious to help — had suggested that the whole thing could be solved if they stepped in and selflessly offered one of their own. Mr Trichet could lift the burden from Mr Duisenberg's shoulders and leave him to eat rijkstafel, drink Cordon, or smoke joints — whatever retired Dutch bankers do to pass the time.

"We expected his successor to be French," said Mr Blair, without the hint of a smile. The Tories began to practise their mocking laugh.

"Mr Trichet... a respected Governor of the Banque de France" (more laughter) "Where there was disagreement was not on the substance..." (Tories contrived a sort of mass throaty roar which combined cynicism with a lecherous snort reminiscent of the late Sid James.)

It was, Mr Blair said, largely the fault of the press, which had confused the fact that, while the treaty said that

Mr Duisenberg should be nominated for the full eight years, he did "in view of his age... he would be 67 in 2002". (Clearly old enough to be gaga and drooling, in young Mr Blair's view — raising tipples rather than growing them.)

At the mention of his age, the Tories began to barrack and chant like hooligans. As an old citizen of Manchester, I recognised that noise: it was the sound of relegated City fans, facing their club's darkest hour, consoled by just one thought — at least United hadn't won the Premiership.

Mr Blair ploughed blandly onward. He might have been discussing a row in the parish council about whether custard creams or digestives should be served at tea. "In the end, it was Mr Duisenberg's view that prevailed," he mused.

At this the Tories erupted into jeers and catcalls and disconcerting shouts of "Ha! Ha!" It was all too much for the Speaker.

"This is disgraceful!" she announced. We assumed that she meant Mr Blair's rewriting of history. Apparently not: amazingly, she meant the Tories. "This is totally disgraceful behaviour on the part of backbenchers!"

Labour MPs, who had spent the previous 10 minutes in a deep and morose silence, shouted at the Tories, who gulped down briefly, like chastened Cub Scouts.

William Hague then had the hardest job any party leader can face, which is winning an open-and-shut argument. He didn't do badly. If he inquired sardonically, Mr Duisenberg was so anxious to give up the job, "why did lunch have to go on till midnight until this fact became apparent to everyone?"

There was a fundamental disagreement between the German way, an independent Bank, and the French way, a politically controlled bank. "The final result is inadequate, possibly illegal, and badly prepared. No doubt you will call it the Third Way."

At the Third Way. Nobody seems to know just what it means. As one senior member of the Cabinet put it mystically the other day: "The Third Way lies between 'here' and 'there'. I am none the wiser."

Tories scent blood but Prime Minister insists compromise on Central Bank was best deal available

Roasting for Blair on euro

Michael White
Political Editor

TONY BLAIR was given the roughest Commons ride of his premiership by the Conservatives yesterday when he was forced to defend the weekend compromise he brokered over the presidency of the European Central Bank to a jeering audience.

Throughout his hour-long session with MPs, the Prime Minister stuck to his guns, insisting that relatively tranquil financial markets since the final details of the euro had been settled in Brussels proved that the split-term ap-

pointment was the best deal available — and the best for Europe.

Recalling Tory predictions of chaos on the markets he told William Hague: "As it happens, the markets are perfectly calm because they know the right decision had been taken. If we had decided to block [Wim] Duisenberg's candidature it would have been a disaster, and thank heavens you were not in charge of our negotiations."

But Mr Blair faced waves of Tory jeering for his repeated claim that Mr Duisenberg, the 62-year-old Dutch central banker, who has agreed to hand over to France's Jean-Claude Trichet halfway through his eight-year term,

never wanted to serve more than two, later "three to five" years. He backed it with a quote from Mr Duisenberg about being "realistic" about his age.

After Mr Hague had accused Mr Blair of presiding over a "fudged and flawed" euro, Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, also condemned the Government for not being on the euro inside track. For once Labour backbenchers seemed hesitant in their support. With the Tories scenting blood, the Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, had to intervene at one point to deplore their "totally disgraceful behaviour".

Mr Hague, whose party is badly split on Europe, com-

plained that the deal breached the 1991 Maastricht Treaty, not just over the bank post but because the Maastricht criteria for membership had been fudged on political grounds — notably over the excessive national debt in Belgium and Italy.

Mr Blair insisted that the treaty allowed some flexibility and brushed aside claims that, in his capacity as rotating EU president, he had gone back on last summer's promise not to allow a fudge. "I have no doubt that though the process was very difficult, the decision was clearly right," he told critics.

Ministers and officials backed him to the hilt as the all-party pro-euro European

Movement launched a telephone hotline to promote the single currency.

Divergent views at Westminster were reflected across the Channel yesterday, where Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, is widely seen to have suffered a damaging blow to his prestige at the hands of President Jacques Chirac of France — as Mr Kohl squares up for a potentially fatal re-election battle.

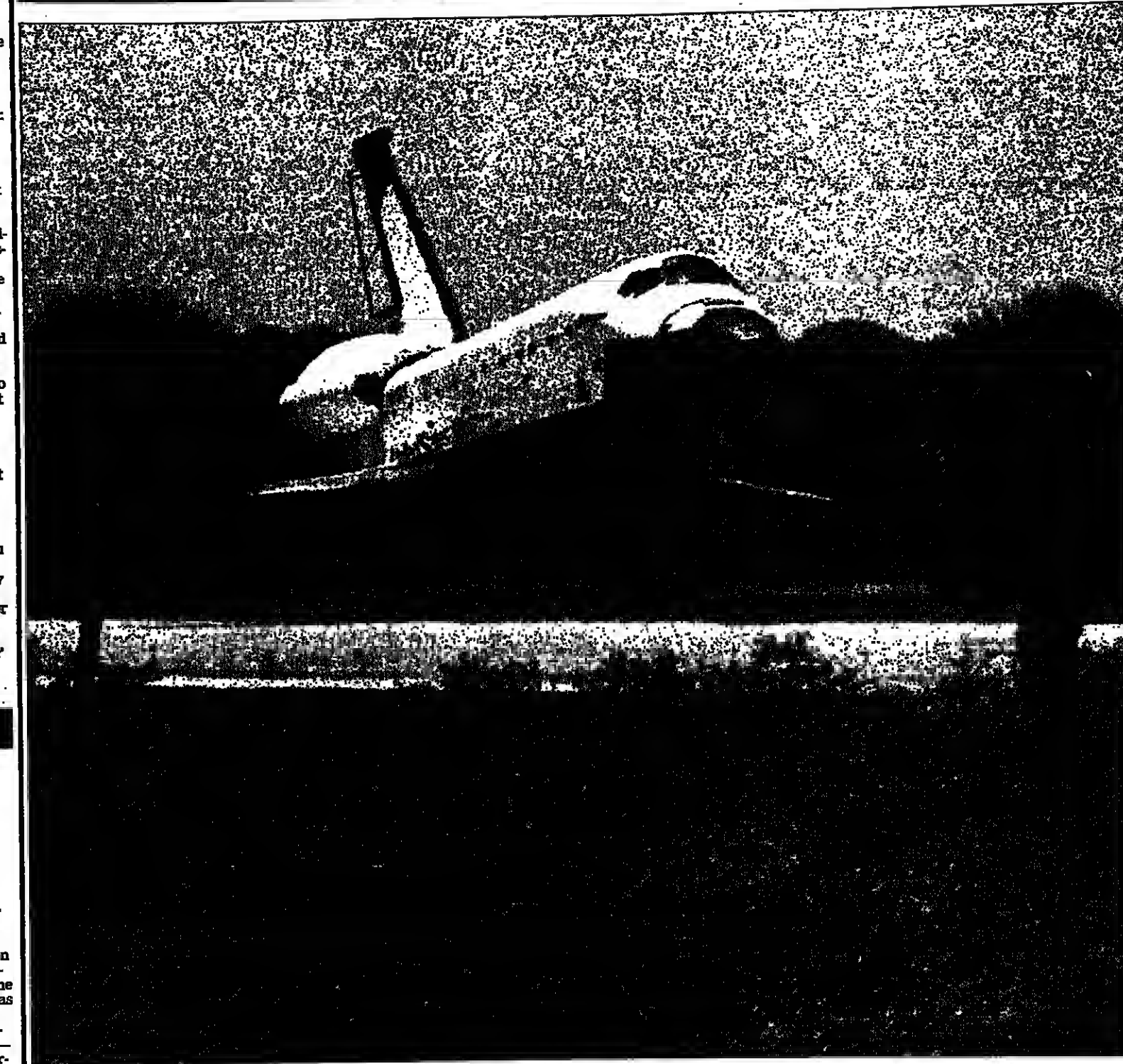
Hans Tietmeyer, president of the Bundesbank, which has been wary of the rush to a single currency, joined those suggesting that the Duisenberg-Trichet deal is proof that the French view of the new Euro-bank has prevailed, one in which politicians have

more influence over the banks than Germans like.

"Not everything that happened at Brussels has contributed to the necessary hope that the euro will really be a supranational and non-political currency," Mr Tietmeyer told an international banking meeting in Frankfurt. "The interests of the entire euro area must always come first. This rule is the decisive milestone for the European Central Bank on the road to trustworthiness."

The German finance minister, Theo Weigel, was also singing from the Blair hymn sheet when he insisted that Mr Duisenberg had been named "unconditionally" for the top job.

Frozen smoke, the light fantastic solid



The US space shuttle Columbia, seen here landing at the Kennedy Space Centre at the weekend, uses a sandwich of aerogel in its tiles to help insulation

Space mission with fridge in mind

Tim Radford
Science Editor

US SPACE scientists believe they will be able to conjure up refrigerator and furnace insulation tiles out of thin air.

They are experimenting with a composite material called aerogel, the lightest solid known. A lump of this "frozen smoke" the size of a man would weigh less than a pound, but could bear the weight of a car.

The stuff, made of silica, alumina and carbon, can weigh

less than the same volume of air. It was tested on the robot rover on Mars last year, and on a shuttle flight this year. It may also play a part in an experiment called Stardust, under which a robot spacecraft will fly through a comet and collect its dust.

But NASA researchers in California have more practical things in mind. Spacecraft work in an environment far colder than anywhere on Earth. But the space shuttle has to return through the upper atmosphere at colossal speeds — and at 1100°C or more. Insulation is a big problem.

"Solid smoke, or aerogel, works like a vacuum layer because it is a great insulator," said Dr Susan White, of the NASA Ames Research Centre at Moffett Field. "The new aerogel tiles can insulate spacecraft from 10 to 100 times better than today's tiles."

The idea of "frozen smoke" is an old one — it was developed at Stanford University in California 60 years ago — but only recently have scientists been able to make the stuff in useful quantities. Researchers at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Centre in Huntsville, Alabama, have been contemplating using it

for window material. The catch is that — so far — the material is opaque. But if light cannot get through, nor can heat. A sheet 1in thick has about the same insulation value as 15 panes of glass and trapped air. The sandwich of aerogel in the space shuttle tiles is filled with a tangle of "strings of pearls" each a billionth of a metre across. This creates so many sides and surfaces that a 1in-thick cube of the stuff could, if unfolded, cover a tennis court.

The reason the aerogel tile composite will act as a great insulator for keeping freezers cold, or automobile catalytic

converters hot, is that the air flowing through the tile is almost completely blocked by aerogel," said Dr White. "It is like having a chunk of solid vacuum where you need it."

Aerogel has, so far, been a space technology solution in search of a problem. It is brittle, so on its own, it cannot be machined. But insulation tiles filled with a layer of it can be cut, shaped, drilled and attached to any surface. The Ames scientists believe it could be used to line furnaces, contain cold substances such as liquid oxygen or nitrogen, or protect spacecraft from icing up on the launchpad.

US issues ultimatum to rescue Middle East peace deal

continued from page 1
certainly think we are into the final chapter... People have got to realise the crunch time is coming."

Mr Blair, credited with galvanising existing US plans for the summit when he visited Israel last month, was shocked by Mrs Albright for being "an exceptionally gracious host" who had been "very supportive and helpful" of her efforts.

The Middle East is now certain to be high on the agenda when the prime minister meets Bill Clinton and other world leaders at the G8 summit in Birmingham just days after the proposed Washington meeting next Monday.

Some progress was made in persuading Israel to agree to plans for a Palestinian airport and seaport in Gaza — issues on which the European Union and Britain have been particularly active, and which should allow Mr Arafat to demonstrate some tangible benefits to his frustrated people.

But however slight the movement, no one was prepared to publicly admit failure.

Even Mr Arafat, who had looked grim since his arrival in London, and who had to be dissuaded by British and EU diplomats from packing his bags on Monday night, refused to be pessimistic as he prepared to leave for a tour of north African and Arab capitals.

"I cannot say that the London talks failed. I have heard from Madame Albright that there was some progress and time is needed in order to achieve an agreement," he said.

Mr Netanyahu said before he left that Israel's security was his paramount concern and he made no apologies for returning home without an agreement.

But faced with Mrs Albright's veiled warning and what could be an open rift with the United States, Israel's closest ally, he said negotiations would continue "by other means" to try to forge a deal.

"If I'm satisfied Israel's security is protected, then we can close the gaps," he said.

British officials last night defended the tightness of the timetable set by the US.

"It is important to maintain the momentum and the sense of urgency and that is why they have set a short time frame," said one.

"There are a lot of carrots for Israel in this, but the Americans saying they could turn their back on the peace process is a sort of stick. For the Palestinians the whole package is a single carrot. Over the months and months and months, there is a chance of progress on the territory issue."

Review

Heir's seductive language lesson

Lyn Gardner

The Comedy of Errors
Watermill, Newbury

EDWARD HALL announced himself as heir to his father Peter's Shakespearean throne with a glorious Henry V at this venue last summer. His return, with a production of Shakespeare's shortest play, is likely to disappoint those expecting more of the same.

Like his Henry — which is about to embark on a European tour — his Comedy of Errors has an all-male cast. Like his much understated "Two Gentlemen of Verona" at The Swan in Stratford-upon-Avon earlier this year, he has once again delivered a passionate and vivacious production which is playful without being patronising.

It would be a pity if he fell victim to the "novice syndrome" of being an immature talent matched with immature plays, because he has a rare ability to make these so familiar plays seem new.

Here he has had the clever idea of putting the citizens of Ephesus in half-masks and making them speak a language of their own. The sense of Ephesus as a mind-own, enchanted and possibly dangerous place of shape-changes and trickery adds spice to this story of slippery identity where two sets of twins collide and none of the protagonists know who they really are.

But Hall's production is less strong on the social confusion which is the spring of the play's farcical humour, and

while the masks work exceptionally well when used as a chorus effect, they are not used with sufficient precision or elegance within the individual performances, with the result that they tend to hide as much as they reveal.

Overall, in fact, the performances still lack definition, particularly the central quartet — which makes the play both less naturally funny and less moving than it can be, especially in the final marvellous scene of self-discovery. There is little true surprise here.

But both performers and production seem likely to grow in stature — and what the evening lacks in subtlety it makes up for with a spirited sense of fun, characterised by designer Francis O'Connor's tiny pop-up city perched precariously on the mountainside.

The show is aided, of course, by the spectacular surroundings of the mill itself. And although the tiny, four-sided galleried space is awkward in many ways, it has an intimacy that binds actors and audiences together.

There is nothing to match the sheer exhilaration of the steps of Hartlepool played out on the lawn, but the audience are seduced long before they enter the theatre by the balladeering citizens of Ephesus and their strange, witching language — a hybrid of E.T., Zorba the Greek and Coco the Clown.

At the Watermill, Newbury, until May 30. At the Pleasance, London, from June 8-12.

This review appeared in some editions yesterday.

Young carers of disabled relatives 'suffer alone'

David Brindle

BARELY one in 10 of an estimated 50,000 children and teenagers who care for sick or disabled family members have had their own needs assessed, a survey today suggests.

Only one in 20 young carers was found to have had an assessment under the Carers

(Recognition and Services) Act 1993, which provides for formal appraisal of needs.

The survey by the young carers' research group at Loughborough University, is based on details of more than 2,300 children and teenagers supported last year by 69 young carers' schemes. Their average age was 12 and 54 per cent came from lone parent families.

Within the last year, scientists at NASA have turned recycled plastic milk bottles into a fabric four times warmer than wool. Blankets made from it will insulate even when wet, and are to be tested by Red Cross and ambulance teams.

Control systems behind NASA's remote manipulator system or robot arm are now being used to help

paraplegics — among them Christopher Reeve, the Superman star — to "log" and keep their muscles from wasting.

Technologies to improve space shuttle performance have led to new, improved engines for the Boeing 777 — and a quieter ride for the passengers, according to NASA.

New space satellite antennae systems mean that drivers may soon be able to send faxes from cars — or doctors send X-rays from a ship or ambulance to a hospital.

"Intelligent" fasteners for coupling spacecraft segments in space are soon to be used by car manufacturers and bridge builders to make sure that bolts are at optimum tightness.

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4 BRITAIN

ITV told to get fresh on 'boring' Saturday nights as ratings slide

Kamal Ahmed on watchdog's demand for revolution with the death of old favourites

IT WAS the archetypal favourite pastime. Saturday night, curl up with a television dinner and a bottle of cheap plonk and enjoy some of Britain's most popular television shows.

But yesterday the programme makers who brought the world Blind Date and Stars in Their Eyes were facing criticism as a television watchdog questioned ITV's ability to

refresh the key Saturday night schedule which is in danger of becoming boring and stale.

The Independent Television Commission said it was time for a shake-up of some of its old favourites, many of which have been running since the 1960s. "They have to try and bring some freshness to the evening," said Sarah Thane, director of programmes for the ITC.

Programmes which have been running for over a decade include Blind Date, Catchphrase and Family Fortunes. All have seen a significant decrease in audiences since the peak of the 1980s when Blind Date, for example, had more than 15 million viewers. It now gets about 9 million.

"The ITC network relies heavily on London Weekend Television at weekends to deliver mass audiences and the ITC fully recognises that any attempt to alter a familiar and popular peak time pattern is fraught with difficulty," the report says. "Change must be introduced in a measured and careful manner, but new ideas are now needed."

Saturday night has been one of the most difficult areas for David Liddiment, ITV's director of programmes. Mr Liddiment has said he

wants to see new drama on Saturday evenings and a public participation show. Don't Try This At Home, will be launched next week. The ITC also said that ITV had to look at other areas of programming during the week including documentaries which tended to rely on a diet of "crime, the emergency services and the paranormal".

The report called the channel's coverage of international issues "disappointing" and warned that conventional-style daytime chat shows such as Vanessa were in danger of bringing up issues of sex and relationships at inappropriate moments.

The report did praise ITV's new commitment to increase its audience share and its sports, arts and children's drama programmes. The report, the commission's annual performance

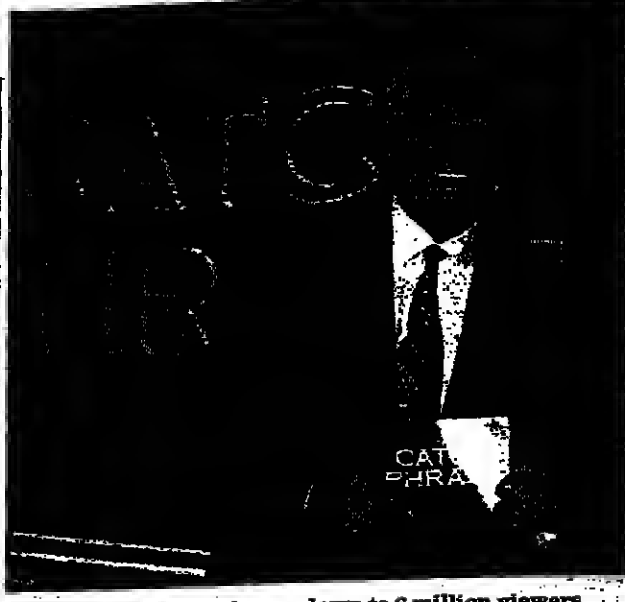


Fading charm: Fewer watch Cilla Black's Blind Date

Showing their age

Blind Date
Launched: 1965
High points: 15 million viewers in the 1980s, Cilla Black's wedding hat
Now: 9 million viewers
Presenter: Cilla Black
Format: Saturday, 7.15pm
Young people ask rehearsed questions and get rehearsed answers with the odd old bunch thrown in for balance
Catchphrase
Launched: 1966
High Point: 11.4 million viewers, first series
Now: 6 million viewers
Presenter: Roy Walker
Format: Early Saturday evening quiz show in which Walker asks contestants to guess catchphrases from partially revealed pictures

Family Fortunes
Launched: 1980
High points: 11 million viewers 1980s
Now: 7.7 million viewers
Presenter: Les Dennis
Format: Early Saturday evening quiz in which families try to second-guess the great British public who are polled on issues such as: If your house was burning down which item would you save?
Stars in Their Eyes
Launched: 1990
High Points: 12.2 million viewers, third series
Now: 9.5 million
Presenter: Matthew Kelly
Format: Later Saturday evening show in which pub performers dress up as their favourite stars and belt out the hits



Roy Walker on Catchphrase, down to 6 million viewers

Women to be at heart of EU jobs policy

Lucy Ward on how ministers are tackling inequality and trying to ensure a fair deal for families

THE 15 member states of the European Union will today sign up to a commitment to place women's interests at the heart of national and European employment policies.

The Social Security Secretary, Harriet Harman, hosting the EU's first conference on women's employment, will warn that, though existing European legislation on equality has made a difference to the lives of working women, too many still encounter a "glass ceiling" blocking progress in their careers.

At the Belfast meeting, which gives Ms Harman her big chance on the European stage during Britain's EU presidency, ministers are expected to publish an agreement to tackle barriers preventing women balancing work and family responsibilities.

A communiqué to be hammered out and published later today, at the end of the two-day meeting, is expected to go forward to the Cardiff EU heads of state conference at the end of Britain's presidency next month. British officials are also working closely with their counterparts in Austria — the next state to hold the presidency — to ensure women's employment remains a priority.

Though the communiqué is likely to be more a statement of commitment than a list of precise targets, it is still being hailed as a leap forward by women's ministers. In a speech to the conference today, Ms Harman is expected to stress that, though new European directives on parental leave, part-time work and working time are designed to help employees balance earning and caring responsibilities, many women still meet a glass ceiling.

In too many fields, she will say, women are failing to make equal progress with men, and their average pay remains low because their ac-

cess to the labour market is restricted by caring and domestic responsibilities.

Women account for 40 per cent of the total EU labour force, with 65 per cent of those between 20 and 59 in work compared with 54 per cent in 1970. However, though there are more women in paid work in Europe than ever before, patterns of employment differ widely between the sexes, with women making up just over 80 per cent of all part-time employees.

The Belfast conference, attended by women's ministers from 10 member states and delegations from the remaining five, is intended to share good practice among member states which policies vary widely among the 15, with Britain languishing some way down the child care and family-friendly employment league.

Yesterday Ms Harman, who is keen to underline her department's achievements in promoting women's interests as she fights to retain her cabinet post in an imminent reshuffle, told the conference of UK goals on improving women's employability.

A joint paper expected within the next fortnight will set out details of Government moves to ensure high quality, affordable child care,



Harriet Harman: 'Still too many glass ceilings for women'

following the budget announcement last month of a new child care tax credit for low-income working parents. A £190 million deal to help lone parents back into work with tailored advice and support was launched in a pilot phase last July and is being extended nationally.

In an attempt to feed grassroots opinion into national policy, Ms Harman and junior minister for women, Joan Ruddock, have launched pilot "women's juries" to consider how to improve child care and employment. One group has met already and another will do so shortly, to draw up reports for the DSS by the end of the month.

Agenda

The three key issues to make Europe work for women:

□ Improving parents' access to high quality affordable child care. Provision now varies widely around the EU, with Britain's record worse than many.

□ Promoting family-friendly employment policies. Harriet Harman will tell EU women's ministers that women are crucial to today's workplaces, but there is little recognition of their responsibilities at home.

□ Ensuring women's interests lie at the heart of EU employment guidelines and states' employment action plans. The conference could yield a commitment to "mainstreaming" — guaranteeing all EU states' policies take women's needs into account.

In a move intended as a signal of the Government's commitment to ensuring employment conditions are more closely tailored to the needs of working parents, Ms Harman will shortly launch a family-friendly employment strategy for the Benefits Agency, which employs 80,000 people, around 50,000 of them women.

Watch on release of paedophiles

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

EMERGENCY action to identify paedophiles whose release from prison is likely to spark demonstrations was announced by the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, last night.

A Home Office group to handle the release of paedophiles such as Sidney Cooke and Robert Oliver will also help shore up the system of local network hostels and supervision arrangements, which is cracking up in the face of vigilante protests.

Mr Straw said the group, which will include the police, chief probation officers and sex offender treatment specialists, will assess plans for the release of high profile offenders, a handful of whom are believed to be nearing the end of their sentences.

The group will have the power to oversee each case, and provide access to government funds to meet exceptional costs "stemming from the offenders' public risk and profile" — including providing 24-hour monitoring in secure accommodation.

those who are likely to trigger significant public concern... and review the arrangements being made for their post-release supervision and media handling," the Home Secretary said in a letter to the Liberal Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown.

Mr Straw said it was vitally important that dangerous paedophiles should be supervised adequately and that the public should be protected. "This is of course made far more difficult if the effect of the reaction by some members of the public or some sections of the media, is to drive paedophiles underground."

Gloucestershire's chief probation officer, Gill Mackenzie, who will sit on the new group, said: "This is very good news. We do need a new overarching national response to the problem of itinerant, high-profile paedophiles."

Harry Fletcher, of the National Association of Probation Officers, also welcomed the announcement, though 24-hour surveillance could add £1,000 a week to already pressed probation budgets for housing a sex offender in a hostel.

Euro-court says ban on British beef must stay

Stephen Bates in Brussels

THE European Court of Justice yesterday administered a final decisive rebuff to UK attempts to challenge the EU over its worldwide export ban on British beef, when it ruled that Europe was fully entitled to order it.

The case, taken over by the current Government, was originally launched by John Major at the time the Tory Government instituted its short-lived beef war of non-cooperation against the EU in the wake of the implementation of the export ban in March 1996.

The formal ruling comes a few weeks after the EU took the first steps towards lifting the ban for cattle with fully computerised health records — the so-called data-based herds — from Northern Ireland. Exports from the province are likely to resume in a few weeks' time.

Expressing disappointment, Ben Gill, president of the National Farmers' Union which was a party to the case, said: "We will now redouble our efforts in working with the Government to ensure a speedy approval of the data-based export scheme."

The European Commission imposed the ban shortly after the former Tory health minister Stephen Dorrell announced to the House of Commons that scientific research had disclosed a possible link between BSE — bovine spongiform encephalopathy — in cattle and a new strain of the incurable Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans.

At that stage the Commission acted after other EU member states acted spontaneously to implement national bans of their own. The court ruled yesterday decisively against British claims that the ban exceeded the EU's powers, was a misuse of its authority and was out of all proportion to the risk of spreading infection.

The judges endorsed the European Commission's claim that it was entitled to

impose a ban against exports, not only to other EU member states but also to the rest of the world because of the danger that the animals or their meat might later be reimported to Europe.

"In order for containment to be effective, it is necessary to impose a total ban on the movement of animals and products outside the frontiers of the member states concerned, thereby affecting exports to third countries."

"Having regard to the probable link between BSE and a fatal disease affecting humans for which no known cure yet exists and to the uncertainty as to the adequacy and effectiveness of the measures previously adopted by the UK and the Community, the court considers that the ban does not clearly exceed the bounds of its discretion."

At that time the Government launched a short-lived, non-cooperation policy, blocking EU decisions which Mr Major claimed would secure a lifting of the export ban within a few months.

Britain's licensing laws



Drinkers may be given more licence to mark the millennium... but not beyond it

Government puts off decision on long term reform of pub hours until next century

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

MINISTERS are on the verge of allowing Britain's pubs to open for up to 36 hours over the weekend of the Millennium celebrations. Home Office ministers indicated yesterday, but more fundamental reforms of Britain's Victorian licensing laws will wait until the new century.

The delay is likely despite Home Office minister George Howarth telling the British Institute of Inn-

keeping yesterday that he intended to "blow away the cobwebs in British life" and bring the drinking laws up to date.

At the same time he announced that an official review team is to be set up to look at the liquor licensing laws. He added though that its work would "not be completed this year and I would not encourage anyone to assume that it would necessarily be complete next year."

The announcement marks a decision to sidestep a major controversy

stirred up by Tory ministers when they proposed two years ago that the pub closing times on Friday and Saturday nights should be extended from 11 pm to midnight.

The plan produced more than 700 responses split right down the middle. Strong objections to particular came from residents' associations in rural areas.

Mr Howarth acknowledged yesterday that it had been difficult to find a consensus on the question and said it was important that any new changes to the licensing laws should command public support.

It is believed that the review team will look at scrapping the law which bans supermarket sales of alcohol after 5pm on Sun-

days, giving local licensing magistrates power to decide the general closing time in an area, and meeting brewing industry demands that pubs be allowed to open from 8am until midnight.

society

Every Wednesday in the

The Guardian

Tory peers deliver reform ultimatum

Michael White Political Editor

THE Conservatives yesterday raised the stakes in their constitutional poker game with Labour over Lords reform when they threatened to disrupt the Government's crowded legislative programme unless ministers reveal their options for modernisation of the second chamber.

Lord Cranborne warned Lord Richard, his successor as leader of the Lords, that the Tories want to engage in constructive reform but are not prepared to be "bounced" into accepting abolition of hereditary voting rights without a clearer picture of the alternatives the government has in mind.

Accusing the government of being "all over the place" on Lords reform, Lord Cranborne told reporters: "Why don't we just bring it all out into the open and get a proper balanced debate going? I will undertake to be cooperative about it and see if we can build public consensus of reforms of the Lords."

To concentrate ministerial minds the Tory chief whip, Lord Strathclyde, claimed that ministers have mishandled their huge programme of bills since last May with the result that, on Tory estimates, they have 60 days worth of business to conduct, but only 40 working days between now and the summer recess.

That assessment is disputed, as is Lord Cranborne's insistence that long-winded debates and amendments, designed to slow bills down, would be compatible with the

so-called Salisbury Doctrine, whereby peers do not block bills listed in a winning party's election manifesto.

Tony Blair is committed to getting rid of hereditary votes 100 years after the reform was first mooted. But some ministers would be happy with a wholly appointed and weak upper house, while others want a wholly or partly-elected second chamber, with sufficient legitimacy in the public mind to exercise fully the powers it already has — but currently dare not use.

Lord Richard is willing to issue a green paper on reform options in the autumn, shortly before the bill to oust the 750 hereditaries — two thirds of all peers — is published. That will not satisfy the 450 Tories who fear that reform will end in a Blairite House of Patronage.

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Dublin libel case



Thomas 'Slab' Murphy, who is suing the Sunday Times, leaving the Dublin high court yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH BY CHARLIE COLLINS

Informer tells of IRA plot to kill Charles and Diana

John Mulholland
Ireland Correspondent

AN IRA murderer turned informer told the High Court in Dublin yesterday that he was sent to Britain to murder the Prince and Princess of Wales as they attended the Dublin Theatre in London's West End.

Sean O'Callaghan, aged 43, who claimed he formerly headed the IRA in the Irish Republic, said the terror group also wanted him to mount a bombing campaign at 18 beach resorts in 1983. Both operations were aborted after Mr O'Callaghan flipped off the Irish police.

Among four terrorists arrested and jailed over the plan in Glasgow two years later was Patrick Magee. He is now serving a recommended 35-year minimum sentence for the Brighton bombing, which killed five people at the Tory party conference in 1984.

Mr O'Callaghan was giving evidence for the Sunday Times on the second day of a libel action. Thomas 'Slab' Murphy, 46, a farmer from Co Louth, claimed that a June 1986 article headlined "Traitor of a Check-In Terrorist" defamed him by identifying him as the recently appointed officer commanding the IRA's northern command.

Mr Murphy denies any IRA links. His cousin, Eamon Lashy, said last week the article contained "not a syllable of truth". He lost the original trial in 1990, but won the right to a new hearing.

Mr O'Callaghan confessed in 1986 to the murders of Ulster Defence Regiment soldier Eva Martin and RUC Detective Inspector Peter Manning 14 years earlier. He served eight years for the killings.

Mr O'Callaghan said he had attended one meeting of the army council while he was a member of the IRA. He resigned from the terror group in 1985 after acting as an Irish police informer.

The army council meeting was at Sinn Féin headquarters in Dublin, and those allegedly present included Gerry Adams, Martin McGuinness, Pat Doherty and

Joe Cahill, all part of the Sinn Féin delegation at the multi-party negotiations at Stormont.

Mr O'Callaghan said: "I had been asked by Pat Doherty in late 1984 or early 1985 to take charge of an investigation into IRA structures in the south of Ireland, and to propose a way forward for the republican movement in the south."

"I presented the results to Pat Doherty. When I went to the meeting, it was so they could say they accepted my findings. Gerry Adams thanked me for the piece of work I had done."

Mr O'Callaghan told the jury that he had met Mr Murphy at three IRA summits, one of the revolutionary council and two meetings of the general headquarters staff between 1983 and 1985.

Mr Murphy, said to have led the IRA in south Armagh, at one point requested high-powered deer hunting rifles. Mr O'Callaghan said that some of the rifles were stolen in Kerry.

Mr O'Callaghan, asked about the South Armagh brigade, said: "It was recognised by the IRA volunteers and the

leadership as being the most active, most efficient."

It came to the fore in the mid 1980s, targeting police and soldiers. "Up until that period, the South Armagh IRA had tended to be rather insular. From early 1984 onwards, it became quite clear they were playing a much more important role in the organisation and higher structures of the IRA."

Mr O'Callaghan, held for two days after beginning his evidence last week over the murder of IRA member Sean Corcoran in 1985, denied he had killed him. He had previously admitted his involvement.

Asked by Paul Gallagher, for the Sunday Times, whether he had murdered Mr Corcoran, aged 45, Mr O'Callaghan replied: "I did not. I was not present when he was killed and I tried for 18 months to save his life."

His aim in admitting to the murder was to open an inquiry into the circumstances of Mr Corcoran's death. He had realised he was an informer within two minutes of meeting him.

The case continues.

Police urge talks on DNA database for whole nation

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

THE Home Secretary, Jack Straw, said yesterday that he was prepared to discuss police proposals for a national DNA database for the entire population. But Home Office sources stressed there were reservations about the plan on the grounds of privacy and cost.

The call to examine such a database was made yesterday by the president of the Police Superintendents' Association, Peter Gammon. He said it could make the investigation of serious crime swifter and more efficient.

Chief Superintendent Gammon said: "There are potentials here that we need to consider. In the investigation of major crime, DNA is becoming more and more important, and it is a very costly process to take samples from people, process them, and compare them with samples we may find at the scene of a major crime."

The database might also help identify victims. "If you don't have an identification it slows down the investigation and in some cases a murder may never be solved."

Mr Gammon accepted there were financial and civil liberties considerations, but added: "Let's talk about it. I am just asking that it be given a cool and frank discussion."

He said safeguards would have to be provided and the process could take years. "You wouldn't see the population queuing up to give DNA. It would happen in the normal course of events, for example when people give blood."

At present the national

DNA database is limited to people convicted or accused of offences. An Audit Commission report issued today shows the database contains information on 250,000 suspects and 27,000 crime scene samples. There have been over 20,000 "matches" in investigations.

Jack Straw indicated yesterday he was prepared to discuss the idea with Mr Gammon. But Home Office sources said serious questions would be asked about personal privacy and the cost.

Liberty, the civil rights campaign group, was concerned that a compulsory scheme could only be established by undermining privacy, that the DNA database might be used as a routine way of establishing identity, and the database might be in breach of the European Convention of Human Rights.

Security warning for forensic labs

TOUGHER security must be introduced in England's six forensic science laboratories following an arson attack, drug dealing and theft from the premises, the National Audit Office says in a report today, written by David Hencke.

The report reveals that arsonists burnt down part of the Wetherby site in West Yorkshire, destroying DNA evidence in 40 criminal cases.

A civil servant was dealing with drugs stolen from Aldermaston in Berkshire. In London £20,000 of confiscated cannabis resin was stolen. Computer equipment was stolen in Birmingham and London.

Dull lessons blamed for truancy

John Carvel
Education Editor

BORING lessons, un-supportive teachers and restrictive school regimes are to blame for soaring levels of truancy, according to the evidence of children who regularly bunk off from class.

The truants sympathised with schools' lack of resources, accepting that staff had insufficient time to give as much individual attention as they would like. But they were alienated by out-of-touch teachers who would not give them a second chance.

The findings came yesterday in a report by Tony Blair's social exclusion unit from the public service union, Unison, and the National Association of Social Workers in Education, which set up six regional panels of persistent truants to get a first-hand account of why they were absent.

About 800,000 children play truant regularly — 10 per cent of the school population. But local education authorities tended to intervene too late with "simplistic" efforts to enforce attendance without understanding the problems, the report said.

Evidence from the panels showed truants appreciated the value of education, but felt school had failed them. "Many pupils reported ... that initial and ongoing truancy started as a result of 'boring' lessons, where copying from a book or a board ... was common."

A pupil who has returned to school to get his GCSEs said: "It is unbelievable. It just bores you. You just sit there and you feel like banging your head on the table."

Another said: "If the teachers had respect for the stu-

dents, I suppose ... there would be respect back. But they don't give respect."

A third added: "They should know how to be able to deal with individuals ... You just sit at the back of the class like a complete prat not doing anything, and the teachers do nothing about it. They just have a go at you and that's it. You might have problems or something and they don't know that."

The truants thought good teachers were young (25-30), relaxed and not intimidated by young people. They used innovative methods with lots of class participation and a spirit of mutual respect.

One teacher was praised for allowing pupils to talk to each other for 10 minutes at the start of class so that they would then give full attention to the lesson. Another played music of the pupils' choice to create a relaxed atmosphere.

The truants saw schools as "controlling, regimented environments". School buildings were "intimidating" and the regime stifled individuality. Many wanted to wear their own clothes: one pupil said his uniform "looks like I'm going to a funeral".

The panels said it was hard to return after truancy. "I felt all the teachers were extremely sarcastic and I didn't feel any of them wanted to help me ... I was just so far behind and I didn't have any confidence."

The report called for better monitoring of absence and more support for returning truants. "There is an overriding need to improve teaching methods, to make learning more participatory, relaxed, fun and innovative. The education social work service should be developed to intervene before truancy became persistent, it said.

Art theft 'brains drawn into trap'

Sarah Hall

A FORMER cat burglar who masterminded a £350,000 robbery from a central London gallery was snared in a police sting, a court heard yesterday.

Peter Scott demanded up to £75,000 for the abstract portrait *Tête de Femme*, after arranging for it to be stolen from the Laforey gallery in Mayfair on March 8, last year.

But a week later, the 67-year-old tennis coach was arrested after his alleged accomplice had unwittingly tried to sell the work to undercover police, Snarebrook crown court in east London, heard.

Scott, who denies conspiracy to handle stolen goods, had discussed art thefts with his alleged accomplice, former legal executive Richard Spring, in April 1995, after the 70-year-old claimed to know of a man interested in buying works of art.

Giving evidence, Spring, a property dealer who has pleaded guilty to a charge of conspiracy to handle stolen goods arising from the case, said that Scott later told him "he had a work for sale and he would sell it for £350,000 and £75,000 to sell it."

Andrew Campbell, prosecuting, said: "The court heard that on the day of the raid the robber — whom Scott and Spring had met two days before in Scott's car — took a cab to the show-room, and marched in with a holdall. He then said: 'I've got a shotgun and I want that painting.' Mr Campbell added: 'He then took from the bag what looked like the stock of a shotgun and took the painting from the wall and left.'"

Holding his cab driver at gunpoint, the robber told him to drive to Wimbledon, southwest London. Soon afterwards, Scott met him in a south London car park to collect the painting.

Later that day, the court heard that Scott drove Spring to collect the painting. However, the police operation had already begun when Spring contacted an undercover policeman posing as an art dealer, on the morning of the raid to tell him it was going ahead.

Seven days later Spring was arrested at his central London offices after the painting had been seen by an officer posing as an art valuer.

When he realised he was "up to his eyeballs" in the intrigue, he agreed to take part in a "sting" against his alleged accomplice, and arranged to meet him at a London pub. There, in view of police officers, Spring handed Scott a bag of cash. Scott was then arrested, said Mr Campbell.

The case continues.



Picasso's *Tête de Femme*, which was stolen last year

News in brief

Glitter on new charges

THE rock star Gary Glitter has been charged with five further sexual offences, Avon and Somerset police disclosed last night.

Glitter, real name Paul Gadd, 54, has been charged with four indecent assault offences on a girl, one in 1976 and the others between 1980 and 1988.

Gadd, from London, has also been charged with another sexual offence on a girl and has been bailed to appear before North Avon magistrates court on May 18.

He already faces charges relating to the downloading of child pornography from the Internet.

The singer also faces 50 charges relating to indecent images of children allegedly found stored on a computer he took to his room.

Glitter was arrested last November after staff at PC World in Cribbs Causeway, Bristol, allegedly discovered the pornographic images.

Slow start for drug court

BRIITAIN'S first specialised drugs court opened yesterday, though a relatively crime-free bank holiday weekend saw no referrals to the American-style sessions.

But police and probation staff remained confident that the experimental court in Walsfield, West Yorkshire, will be busy next month. Seventy per cent of the area's crime is committed by drug-users, according to the Home Office and West Yorkshire police. — Martin Wainwright

Syd Lawrence dies at 74

VETERAN handballer Syd Lawrence died early yesterday aged 74.

The musician, who appeared for many years with his orchestra on comic Les Dawson's TV show *Seez Lez*, died suddenly at home, a spokesman for his band said.

Mr Lawrence, who lived in Wiltshire, Cheshire, also backed Dame Vera Lynn and produced more than 30 albums.

The Syd Lawrence Orchestra still holds sell-out concerts, though he retired from touring in 1994.

Fashanu died from hanging

THE footballer Justin Fashanu died as a result of hanging, Scotland Yard said yesterday after a post mortem examination carried out over the weekend.

Fashanu was understood to have been found hanging from rafters in garages at Shore-ditch, east London, on Saturday. The former £1 million striker had fled to Britain

Beatles appeal to High Court to ban 1960s Hamburg disc

Don Gislister
Arts Correspondent

IT WAS slightly more than 20 years ago today, but a long-running dispute over a rare live recording of the Beatles was heard in the High Court yesterday.

The surviving Beatles and John Lennon's widow, Yoko Ono, are attempting to recover the recording and seek to ban sales of a CD of the performance.

The Beatles shared the bill in Hamburg in 1962 with the then almost legendary but now less widely remembered King Size Taylor and The Dominos.

The band's leader, Edward Taylor — who was known in the business as King Size — recorded one evening's musical proceedings on a reel-to-reel tape recorder.

At the time, the Beatles' first single, *Love Me Do*, had reached number 17 in the British charts, and the group were playing their last night at the Star Club, in Hamburg.

As the Beatles found greater success, Taylor decided that the portion featuring their performance might be of wider interest than his own group's efforts.

He offered the recording to the Beatles' manager Brian Epstein in 1963 for £20, which

Epstein refused. Ten years later an attempt was made to sell the tape to the Beatles' own company, Apple Corps. Four years later, an album was released on Polygram featuring some tracks from the recording.

The High Court refused requests to ban sales of the album.

The new hearing, under the 1988 Copyright Act, which gives more protection to artists and writers, will consider whether the Beatles were at the time contracted to EMI, who were the only company allowed to make recordings of them.

The owners of the recording, Lingsong Music Ltd, claim John Lennon gave verbal permission for the recording at the time when it was made.

But Mark Platts Mills QC, representing the Beatles, told the Mr Justice Neuberger that "Lingsong are claiming that consent was given to make the recording and exploit it commercially in a raucous club where bands are coming and going in a party atmosphere."

The remaining Beatles say they knew nothing about the arrangement.

The case, scheduled to last for four days, continues today.

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Hamburg	D.M.	237	415	784
Geneva	S.F.	218	382	703
Zurich	S.F.	218	382	703
Brussels	B.F.	4,370	7,640	14,080
Amsterdam	FLG	266	465	855
Maastricht	FLG	15,800	27,300	50,200
Stockholm	S.Kr	1,080	1,880	3,415
Copenhagen	D.Kr	1,080	1,880	3,415

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Garage staff 'killed drivers to steal their cars'

Three mechanics and their employers are in custody after Russian police found 10 bodies buried under a repair shop, reports James Meek in Moscow



A worker examines one of the burial pits below the Avtolyux garage

PHOTOGRAPH BY ALEXANDER KORNYUSHCHENKO

THE STAFF of a backstreet garage on the outskirts of the Russian capital were in custody last night after police exhumed the bodies of 10 motorists, murdered then buried after bringing in their cars for repair.

The victims were in two graves under the garage workshop. More burial pits may lie below the surface.

Police believe the suspects — three mechanics and two company directors in their twenties — shot the motorists or suffocated them using plastic bags, before dumping their bodies and selling their cars on the open market.

Two of the victims have been identified — Muscovites who disappeared with their Jeep Grand Cherokee, a favourite vehicle of the city's "New Russian" arrivistes, on April 8. Alongside the bodies

in the first pit police found number plates, car parts with traceable numbers and three mobile telephones.

They also found the passports of a married couple who had been reported missing. It is not known if their bodies were discovered later, although TV-Tsentr news

reported last night that male and female victims had been found.

Detectives stumbled across the killing ground when two women told police their husbands had vanished after setting out on April 16 to sell a Lada Samara.

The name of the repair shop, Avtolyux (autolux), was found on the answering machine of one of the missing men. After the mechanics were arrested they reportedly broke down and confessed.

The garage operated for two years out of old industrial buildings near a busy railway siding. "My God," a rail worker told TV-Tsentr news,

workers more than an hour to dig through. Russia has suffered a string of business-related mass murders since the collapse of the Soviet Union. In November 1996, 12 people died when a bomb went off during a graveyard ceremony to mourn a victim of a feud over import

quotas for Afghan veterans. In 1994, eight people were shot dead in a gunbattle fought for control of a Moscow restaurant. The same year, the corpses of nine businessmen were found in a burnt-out Mazda in St Petersburg.

Mafia slayings of business rivals seldom make the front pages of Russia's newspapers

today, but the horrific secrets of the Avtolyux repair shop have shocked a city with a growing population of car owners. A former deputy prime minister has been charged with embezzlement, the Moscow prosecutor's office said yesterday.

Alfred Kokh, aged 37, who served as deputy prime minister for six months last year, is accused of misappropriation in a complicated deal that landed him an apartment close to the Kremlin.

If convicted, Mr Kokh, a close ally of former first deputy prime minister Anatoly Chubais while in government, could face up to 10 years in jail.

Mr Kokh also served as chairman of the state property committee, heading a programme charged with selling off Soviet assets.

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Wim Kok finds third way home

The Blairite Dutch leader looks set for election victory, reports Martin Walker in Amsterdam

THE Christian Democrats were giving away floppy disks in Dam Square yesterday, as a band of fiddlers and tuba players played drinking songs on a stage erected in front of the palace.

"Boot it up, and play the political quiz. Find out what your politics really are," said the young cyber-politician handing out the disks.

Surprise, surprise: if you like computers and enjoy surfing the net, you must be a Christian Democrat. The party's computer programme can link you up and, by the time of the next election, it should even be able to cast your vote.

The Social Democrat stall across the square looked antediluvian by comparison. There were posters featuring the craggy handsome prime minister, Wim Kok, wearing a red rose.

The curt slogan read "Strong on Social". Leaflets promised more jobs, smaller school classes and reliable pensions.

But the party stalls were outnumbered by proponents of the new politics. The Greens had three stalls. Animal rights activists had two, as did the Children's rights group.

The last day of campaigning before today's general election formed part of a national celebration of the 50th anniversary of the second world war. On Monday the German surrender was celebrated with military parades and wreaths laid by Queen Beatrix.

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fered no such advice this time. The Green-left alliance and the Socialists have hammered away at the widening gap in incomes and the steadily squeezing on the traditionally generous welfare system. But with steady growth, almost zero inflation and unemployment at 5 per cent, they have made little headway.

The one drama of the campaign was the Brussels summit at the weekend, when France succeeded in limiting the Dutch candidate, Wim Duisenberg, to only four years as first head of Europe's new central bank. Both the Christian Democrats and the left have tried hard to turn the issue to their electoral advantage, but the emergency parliamentary debate they have demanded will be held only after the election.

Opinion polls suggest that Mr Kok's party will gain 5-10 seats to have as many as 45 in the 150-seat parliament. His VVD partners are expected to hold their own, while the big loser looks set to be the third coalition member, the D-66 group of non-aligning Ms Borst, whose 24 seats may be halved.

One reason for the decline of the D-66 may be that the political sphere it has occupied — the middle ground between traditional left and right — is getting crowded. Mr Kok gets on with Mr Blair because he has converted his party into a kind of New Labour that believes in free markets and privatisation.

Others have yet to learn how to play this excellent game. Fritz Bolkestein, a former Shell oil executive who heads the VD free-market Liberals in parliament but refuses a seat in Mr Kok's cabinet, is too spiky for Dutch comfort. He openly doubts Europe's single currency, and has questioned the official unemployment figure of 5 per cent.

More than one employed person in three works part-time, and the unemployment rate would more than double if it included jobless people who have been reclassified to get sickness benefits. The most common official ailment they list is "stress". But don't expect the Dutch to show much of that this election day.

Mr Kok, who has been described as Tony Blair's best friend in Europe, is a committed "third way" politician. His key campaign pledge was to reassure middle-class voters that he would block his own party's plan to cut mortgage tax relief.

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On Saturday May 9 the Guardian launches The Editor — a new 24-page magazine supplement. Featuring topical, witty and unusual pieces from newspaper columnists, the Internet and radio, The Editor is the best of the week's news, sorted for you. There's lively perspectives on the news, personalities and events of the week as well as regular sections like Columnists' Choice, which 10 stories took up the most space in papers across the world. It's not nothing else, read this.

Saturday May 9 in The Guardian

سكنا من الامل

Middle East stalemate



The US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, centre at the Middle East talks in London yesterday, is finding it hard to bridge the gulf between the insecurities of Jewish settlers, left, and the rage of young Palestinians, right

US gives coded ultimatum for deal

Netanyahu/The Israeli prime minister has his work cut out as he tries to reconcile American demands and the fears of Israeli hawks, writes Ian Black

MADELAINE Albright set a clock ticking yesterday when she invited Benjamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat to come to Washington next Monday. That was the good news. The bad news is that they must first make the deal that eluded them in London over the past 48 hours.

Looking stern as she addressed the first and only press conference of her hectic visit, the US secretary of state made clear that Washington's role in the faltering Oslo peace process was far from over, despite the striking lack of decision in what she had publicly billed as a "decisive" summit hosted by Tony Blair.

Progress, she and the other participants insisted, had been made in shuttle diplomacy between Downing Street and some of the capital's most expensive hotels. But on the core question of how much land Israel is prepared to evacuate in the next stage of its West Bank withdrawal, the impasse remains. Palestinians have made clear — reluctantly — that the US call for a 13 per cent pullback satisfies them for now, even though it enrages

them that for the sake of flexibility and deference to Israel this has never been formally tabled by Washington. Israel's prime minister, his hands tied by rightwing coalition partners and his own deep mistrust of Oslo, has offered 9 per cent, maybe 11 per cent, repeating that the country's security is at stake and that every percentage point represents an area the size of Tel Aviv.

He will have his work cut out over the next few days convincing the hawks inside his divided cabinet that Palestinian guarantees on Israel's security are strong enough to make the risk worthwhile. Yet, with Mrs Albright insisting that the invitation to see President Bill Clinton is strictly on the "basis of" American ideas and that "watering them down is not in the works", Mr Netanyahu might be forgiven for believing he was bearing an ultimatum that will put him off the spot both at home and abroad.

But there are carrots, too, as British officials were anxious to point out the US offer that the parties can move to "accelerated final status talks" if they agree on the next pullback means that there is light at the end of the Oslo tunnel.

Mr Netanyahu has long wanted a shortcut to final status talks without having to yield substantial amounts of the territory Israel has held since 1967 in an interim deal. And a meeting with Mr Clinton would be a bonus after months of chilly relations. Time was pressing before Mrs Albright's new deadline. Last Monday, by coincidence, was exactly one year away from the date in 1999 when the parties were supposed to have finished their negotiations on permanent borders, settlements, refugees and Jerusalem — all so difficult they were deliberately left until

'I would give it a year. Then maybe Hamas will take over'

Palestinians/The refugees who live in Kalandia camp tell Julian Borger time is running out

BY YESTERDAY evening, the news that the London conference had come to an inconclusive end had yet to reach Kalandia refugee camp on the West Bank. It was hardly surprising as no one was aware that the negotiations had even begun. Among this cluster of concrete homes on Jerusalem's outer rim, the words "peace process" fell out of everyday vocabulary long ago.

Khaled, a refugee aged 20, received the news with indifference. "It's no surprise. There can never be a peace deal with Netanyahu. We will give up everything and he will say it is still not enough."

Khaled's opinion was clout. Armed with stones, he and a few hundred youths from the 7,100-strong Kalandia camp can turn the road from Jerusalem north to the Palestinian city of Ramallah into a war zone in minutes. This

The curious case of the incredible shrinking man

Arafat/The once fiery chief is settling these days for what he can get, says David Sharrock

CHIEF, chairman, president — one and all are connoted by *ol-Rais*, as Yasser Arafat's supporters call him. But however grand the title, the Palestinian leader is getting weaker by the day. Yesterday saw Ha'aretz, Israel's leading centre-left daily newspaper, leading its front page with a bit of history. "Arafat says Abu Dis acceptable as Palestinian capital," proclaimed the headline. The Palestinian village of Abu Dis — which lies just outside Jerusalem's city boundaries on a hilltop overlooking al-Aqsa mosque, Islam's third holiest shrine — occupied a central, if secret, place in peace negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians two years ago.

While Mr Arafat has always demanded that Jerusalem be the capital of his future state, a formula was mooted privately whereby the Palestinians would have a corridor of unfettered access to their holy site and thus claim the

that Israeli troop withdrawals from occupied lands are going to be fewer and later than the process promised, he has succeeded. The assassination in 1995 of Mr Netanyahu's predecessor, Yitzhak Rabin, seems to have brought a slow death to Mr Arafat, so tightly bound up is he with the success of the process flowing from the 1993 Oslo accords, which mapped out an honourable settlement under Jordanian control, is always in question: Mr Arafat

'Nothing can happen on the streets without Fatah encouraging it and Arafat is cautious about public unrest'

he said. "People will wait to see if a Palestinian state will be declared. If there is no state, then maybe there will be no Palestinian Authority and Hamas will take over."

Arafat wants to see the fruits of his toil before he dies, however diminished the result, say some

displaying symptoms of Parkinson's disease, most obviously the constant tremble of his lips and left hand, but also in the lapses of concentration which some have noted. His aides reject the Parkinson's theory, referring instead to his health to injuries sustained in a plane crash and the 20-hour work days which the septuagenarian leader is said still to put in every week.

Mr Arafat is increasingly talking of May next year, when the Oslo accords officially expire, and his determination to declare a Palestinian state regardless of whether negotiations with the Israelis fail. Analysts are divided over the merit of such an action and its consequences. One strand believes it is yet another sign of exhaustion: Mr Arafat wants to see the fruits of all his toil before he dies, however diminished the result will be, runs one argument. But others believe that the Palestinian leader is using the 12 months before the Oslo accords lapse to find out how many countries might risk Israeli wrath and officially recognise a Palestinian state.



Joe's 16th birthday was special. His cellmate handed himself.

Joe had been on remand for over four months. He knew his cellmate was desperate. It wasn't just the bullying, it was what they were making him do. It was lucky Joe was there. He held on to the boy till help arrived. His cellmate survived, but Joe ended up in hospital suffering from trauma. When his case came up, he didn't get a jail sentence, but he'd already learned everything there is to know about intimidation, theft and mugging. The Children's Society is helping boys like Joe.

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Going the extra mile Israel must choose

WHEN Binyamin Netanyahu visited Auschwitz during Israel's 50th anniversary celebrations he said that "Jewish sovereignty and Jewish power are the only deterrents and the only guarantees against the slaughter of the Jews." It was a typically combative and one-sided statement from a leader whose understanding of Israel's real situation has always been defective. Jewish power is indisputably an element in Israel's security, yet the strength of others, and their concern for Israel, are also critical. Israel would not have come into existence had Britain not decided that it would assist in the creation of a Jewish "national home", and Israel might not have survived without the military and economic support of Western countries.

Those same countries, led by the United States, have in recent years been trying to assure Israel's security by creating the conditions for a settlement between Israelis and Palestinians, a settlement that would give the Palestinians a small, weak state on part of the land taken by Israel in the 1967 war. Netanyahu's government includes people who do not want such a settlement at all, and others who would reluctantly accept it but want to give the Palestinian polity minimal "sovereignty and power", and perhaps not even the name of a state.

Since Netanyahu took office, Western diplomacy has been reduced to an attempt to squeeze "concessions" out of his government in the hope that the Palestinians can be persuaded to accept far less than the

Oslo Agreement once seemed to promise — less land, less control over what land they do get, less water, less freedom in foreign affairs, defence, and trade, and less of a stake, or no stake at all, in Jerusalem. These "concessions", when made, amount to grudging and usually tiny retreats from the extreme positions the Israeli government has taken up. This is what the "peace process" has become. Israel has managed to redefine it in such a way that any attempt to question its policies — as when the British Foreign Secretary insisted on visiting the most dubious of Israeli settlement projects — is regarded as an outrage.

In London, Netanyahu has, he claims, "gone the extra mile". By this he may mean that he is ready to talk about evacuating the 13 percent of the West Bank the Americans have suggested, but only under certain conditions. Those conditions could well include avoiding any commitment to suspend further Jewish settlements, ducking a third phase of evacuation, as laid down under Oslo, and proceeding to negotiations on a final settlement with Yasser Arafat having given a guarantee in advance that the Palestinians will not declare a state if those negotiations fail.

If so, Netanyahu in essence wants to take every remaining card out of the Palestinian hand, and to compromise the whole of the final stage of the peace process, in return for a few thousand hectares of land. It looks as if the Americans are not going to play this game. They have persuaded Arafat to accept the proposals they put to both sides. Netanyahu, pleading he had no authority from his Cabinet to take decisions in London, has not done so. He now returns to Israel for discussions with his Cabinet. Further negotiations in the United States next week will only go ahead, Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State said, if

Israel also accepts the American proposals. As a result, the Israeli government may finally have to choose between the intransigence it prefers and a quarrel with the one country with which it must maintain a continuing friendship.

No way DNA Get fingerprints right first

NO ONE can blame police officers for looking for new hi-tech ways of solving crime. Yesterday the President of the Police Superintendents' Association pushed the latest solution: a national DNA database. What could be nicer for the police: just sniff the air round the burglary and within seconds they could obtain a profile of a suspect without even having to dispatch a squad car to the scene.

Well not quite but DNA is a brilliant forensic weapon catching burglars from the saliva of a thrown away cigarette stub, badger killers from the animal's blood on suspects' clothes, and a killer from bite marks on a body. Already the present database of 250,000 samples from people charged, cautioned or convicted of recordable offences is producing more than 300 matches a week with samples found at the scene of a crime. In the words of Chief Supt Peter Gammon: "You have serial killers on the loose, serial rapists — if you can identify them at their first offence, we can save lives."

Up to a point. We are still struggling to put together a nationally co-ordinated fingerprint database after years of delay, defeat and failure. The police are still licking their wounds from the collapse of a late 1980s system. It is one thing to create a massive data base but without devising

effective means of extracting the right data, the system is useless. Remember the number of fingerprints is only one third the number of DNA profiles which the Chief Superintendent is proposing. Earlier fingerprint exercises have shown the bigger the system, the more unmanageable it becomes.

Apart from practical problems, there are more serious objections of principle. Civil libertarians are right to be wary of letting technology turn justice principles on their head. If everyone is assumed to be a suspect, that is a contradiction of the principle of innocent until proved guilty. Every body would be on the list of suspects at every scene of crime. Equally serious is the error rate — both unintentional and deliberate. The recent cervical smear muddle demonstrates the ease with which experts can unintentionally get things wrong. The forensic service has an infamous history of similar mistakes with one former scientist, Frank Skuse, being forced to resign on the grounds of "limited efficiency". Some miscarriages of justice have involved even more serious allegations of deliberate error. DNA is no protection against the deliberately planted hair or saliva. We don't need an all-inclusive national DNA database.

Numbers up Digital doomsday looms

DR JOHNSON'S warning — that round numbers are always false — may be true but it isn't much help as we get closer to Digital Doomsday. Just when there are signs that companies are becoming aware of the year 2000 problem (when older computers programmed to interpret years in

terms of two digits won't recognise the new millennium), a new numerical problem has appeared from nowhere. According to the Financial Times, much computer software written for financial organisations to track the Dow Jones industrial shares index only recognises four digits. So, when the Dow (currently a bit below 9,200) approaches 10,000 computers are likely to interpret it as 1,000 or even 0,000 suggesting a catastrophic slump in share prices is imminent. Computers programmed to authorise automatic share sales will sell heavily to avoid the crash.

You don't have to be Nostradamus to realise that in these circumstances computer selling will bring about the very crash they seek to avoid. And goodness knows what will happen if the Dow index nears 9,000 at the end of December, 1999 when computer calendars are about to flip over to 2000. Who will know what caused what? There is a third problem — a number of software systems do not recognise that 2000 is a leap year and will not recognise February 29, 2000. Perhaps, but the first priority now is to see if we can survive until the new century before worrying about the leap year effect a couple of months later.

It is ironic that the digital revolution, heralded as a technological saviour, is turning out to have grave problems of its own that could undermine much of the good it does. For instance, the cost of adjusting computers to meet the 2000 problem will probably exceed the profits (less losses) of the computer industry in recent years. There's no obvious solution to this problem, not even a utilitarian one. It is easy to say it should be solved to give the greatest happiness to the greatest number. But in this case it is the number that is the problem.

Letters to the Editor

Air mail and cycle paths

DR MICHAEL Bagshaw's letter about air quality on BA flights (May 4) will not do much to reassure nervous passengers. His list of design specifications does not tell us what is actually going on in the plane. We need the answers to two simple questions. 1. Does anyone monitor the air inside the cabin during flight? 2. How many people fainted on BA planes last year and is there any increase over previous periods? After my husband fainted on a plane in March and I heard of four other cases within a few days, I have been trying to get a clear statement from both BA and the CAA about who monitors air quality, how often and who can see the results. So far there has been a lot of paperwork but no clear answer. Sylvia Trench, Beeston, Nottingham.

COULD Dr Bagshaw furnish us with similar sets of statistics for air quality in passenger cabins of BA aircraft for 10 and five years ago, so that we may make comparisons? Olwen Calland, Lancaster.

IS the Lord Chancellor, in pursuance of his commendable objective of freedom of information, prepared to disclose the fees he received in his last year of practice at the Bar? Oliver Whitson, London.

BRADFORD should count itself lucky (Cyclist network gets 13-year boost, May 5). There is a cycle lane in the Old Steine in Brighton which is 400 inches long. Mike Aiken, Brighton.

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address or a truncated address is supplied; please include a full postal address. We may edit letters. We cannot acknowledge letters.

A cold look at charity

WHY is it absurd to define what is charitable by a statute 400 years old (So you want to give to charity. But why should I have to chip in? May 4) when English law is predicated on a modern interpretation of ancient statutes? What is absurd is for Polly Toynbee to echo the killy puritanical view of William Gladstone that charitable status merely represents a fiscal loss to the Exchequer.

Charity giving is the ultimate consumer choice. I don't have to throw my pound coins in the charity's research bucket. I could buy a bottle of beer and let my fellow taxpayers benefit from the heavy tax on my self-indulgence, but would the government then apply that tax to fund more scientific research into immune diseases?

Of course not, because the government recognises that I shall be encouraged to make a larger donation to independent research by charities if it enhances my contribution by tax relief. And the government is spared having to worry about the favoured causes Polly Toynbee believes they will be

able to list, presumably to universal acclaim. How would she feel if these included a cause she abhors?

Polly Toynbee rightly bemoans the fact that many charities have been forced to contract out to provide those services which most of us would consider to be the responsibility of government. The principal reason for that is that many core grants have been withdrawn from the charities whose future funding has then been made subject to a tender process and contract for service delivery. And local or central taxes can then be reduced because day centres, for example, no longer have to be provided from them. Surely this is a more insidious case of taking charitable funds from the poor to subsidise the well-off?

Kevin Horlock, Chief executive, British Society for Immunology, London.

POLLY Toynbee says that we may as well do away with charities, but concedes that we can still all agree on the need for charities in the relief

of poverty and for benefit to the community. Few other organisations exist to serve these purposes to anything like the same degree. It is charitable status which gives charities the independence and the public confidence to criticise local and central government, in spite of the new funding regimes of contract culture. The real problem lies in the accountability of these organisations to the public: they are supposed to serve. As charities take on greater responsibility for formerly public social functions it becomes increasingly important that they are accountable in the delivery of those functions as well as for the public funding they receive or the tax breaks larger charities enjoy.

The Charity Commissioners would be right to incorporate concerns of the users of charities' services in addition to justifications of the public cost. However, given the exclusion inherent in the condition of poverty, it is unlikely that the views of users will actually inform the debate. John Kinsella, Hull.



Use of force ruined the party

IN FRANCE this summer we as a nation will be judged not only by our competence on the field but by our behaviour off it. Highbury throws a party for its champion heroes, May 9. Yet it is apparently perfectly acceptable for the Metropolitan police force to compensate for their lack of foresight and strategic planning by sending in the riot police to deal with an overcrowded Highbury.

I am not a particularly avid football fan, nor do I harbour any great affection for Arsenal FC but, living within a stone's throw of the stadium, I was happy to join in with the celebrations on Sunday night. It was indeed a heated evening on the Seven Sisters Road as Arsenal fans collided with crowds exiting the free festival in neighbouring Finsbury Park. Why was this festival allowed to take place? Why were the festival crowds not sent to Manor House tube rather than to Finsbury Park?

I saw bottles and beer glasses being thrown in the air. Why were the pubs not told to use only plastic glasses? Why were shops instructed not to sell bottles? Would this not have been a more sensible approach than to instruct several hundred police officers with shields

and batons to charge down the Seven Sisters Road at Arsenal fans and festival-goers? Benjamin Linsley, London.

SUE Quinn decided that: "There was only one way to describe it. The place was going off." Well, for most of us in this part of Highbury, it went off a good many years back, round about the time when supporters found that they were unable to enjoy themselves without the help of a few gallons of lager!

Never mind, the police are bappy. It surely won't be long before they are heard saying, "We think your supporters are wonderful!" I'll keep my fingers well crossed for the double. Michael Dobbs, London.

AT LAST, serious coverage of women's football. But is it just that I'm a whingeing Scouser in exile or is there a legitimate reason why you devote a full report of Arsenal's women winning the cup and ignore Everton women's team winning the league? Michael Allen, London.

The Country Diary can be found on Page 10

Chirac as left-wing hero: the euro gets wider currency

IT IS in both the letter and the spirit of the Maastricht Treaty that the president of the European Central Bank should be a political appointee chosen by the heads of state and/or government of the participating countries (Leader, May 5). Why be surprised, then, that a political appointment or two should have been the result of last weekend's discussions?

Of course, it would be preferable if the ECB were a politically accountable body with the ambition of reducing unemployment. This would only be possible if the political structures of Europe were strengthened at the cost of a loss of political sovereignty for individual states. Such a policy is not at present on the European agenda, but it is certainly the goal sought by pro-European left-wingers.

Their cause has been much helped by the unfortunate President Chirac who, far from being the bully boy reviled in your columns and

elsewhere, is the unwitting hero of the left: the more friction he and others like him cause at summits of this kind, the clearer the need for political integration becomes. Etienne Brum-Kovet, Balliol College, Oxford.

ON MONDAY morning, the smart money was on the markets getting out of the euro and into the pound. The Eurocrats couldn't be trusted to get it going properly even with Blair's help, and the result would be a strong pound and therefore a disaster for UK industry. But by lunchtime it looked like the markets rather liked the euro, would be getting out of sterling and into the euro and, thanks to Blair conniving with the wicked Eurocrats, we would end up with a weak pound and therefore a disaster for the British economy. Why didn't we just join in the first place? Nick Davies, London.

The rat catcher joins the man from Ofwat

BRITISH citizens, at least in London, may soon be able to elect four of the people that govern them: an MP, a councillor, an MSP and now a mayor. In contrast a US citizen can elect four people to national office (president, vice president, senator and member of Congress) as well as many local officials.

It is common to deride the US approach of electing "rat catchers" and to point out how few Americans vote and how money dictates the result. But we should think again before dismissing American democracy. I would like to be able to elect some of

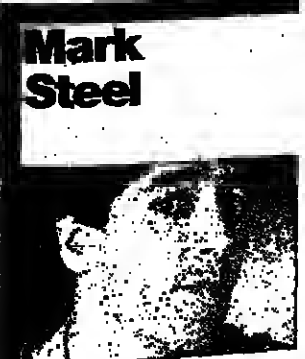
the Ofwats and Ofwatts who keep letting the utility monopolies off the hook. Dan Flesch, London.

CONTRARY to Michael White's analysis (Capital idea wavering towards a "Yes" vote, May 4) the proposed new Greater London Authority and mayor are not abstract concepts but something Londoners desperately need. To give one pertinent example there is currently an application for an enormous luxury development by Lambeth Palace which threatens to deface the Thames from the

Tata to the Savoy. It has, of course, been unanimously condemned by local people, but has nevertheless been granted permission — the developers are offering an unprecedented £1.9 million to Lambeth.

London boroughs do not have the resources or clout to resist such developers. A Greater London Authority is absolutely necessary to save central London from being peppered by these gilt-edged caravans. Michael Ball, Whigitt Tenants & Residents Association, London.

Gawd bless the mayor



WHY on earth has Jeffrey Archer enlisted 100 researchers for his campaign to become Mayor of London? Surely if they were any good at their job they'd all be back after half an hour's meaningful researching to say "What we've found, Jeffrey, is that no one likes you". The enthusiasm Archer has for his candidacy is the other

side of the coin to the apparently spate of most Londoners have for tomorrow's referendum. People don't seem bothered, because they can't figure out what possible effect the outcome will have on their lives — hardly surprising when one of the mayor's five main tasks is listed as "appointing his staff". So it sounds as if, at some point, various officials were sat round a table worrying that there was going to be nothing for the mayor to do. And then someone said: "I've got it. He can appoint assistants. To lighten the load".

It's claimed by some in the Labour Party that having a mayor will be a step towards "confrontation-free politics". Like New York perhaps. They've got a mayor, and it would be hard to imagine a more easy-going village atmosphere. It's typically arrogant of New Labour to imagine that a token post will dampen confrontation, when the city that's

voting has 11 of the country's 12 poorest boroughs. Maybe they think that, in the pubs of London, grateful Cockneys will be saying "I tell you what me and cock, yer mightn't 'ave count yer blessings as long as you've got 'ealth and a mayor".

This proposal to have a mayor has come about not because of mass demand, but because London's businessmen were pressing for a public relations focus for the city. Stuns like the Olympic bid, they argued, needed a mayor. But on the other hand they were adamant that an Old Labour-style mayor would be avoided at all costs. So the mayor will receive foreign dignitaries and businessmen, posing for photos in front of a whale stall, or with a young lad, with soot on his face, pick-pocketing. To boost exports, maybe the mayor will occasionally take an Indonesian or Saudi leader out to a rooftop to enjoy a

reduced the fares. Through subsidies the buses and tubes became 25 per cent cheaper. So more people used them, fewer people used cars, and the air was cleaner. Until Bromley council took the GLC to the High Court, who declared the whole thing illegal and it was scrapped. The left are often accused of over-simplifying politics, but the right shouldn't make it so easy for us.

Imagine if there'd been a referendum then, on whether the low fare policy should stay. Or if there was one now, on whether it should be tried again, or whether the rest of public transport should be privatised. It's fairly certain there'd be posters in every window and great anticipation. Whereas a referendum to give someone a chance to be on telly lots, arouses little enthusiasm amongst the electorate, but huge amounts amongst Jeffrey Archer. Businessmen have usually

preferred meaningless elections to ones with any purpose. Right back in the 1820s, when Cornwall had 44 MPs, Manchester none and even the hamlet of Old Sarum, consisting of one farmer, had one. And I bet if Old Sarum went Tory, the farmer still said: "I didn't vote for 'em".

Which is why Tories (except for Archer) are behaving like a grumpy schoolboy, reluctantly agreeing to tidy his room. Asked whether they support the proposals they look at their feet and mumble "Alright. If I have to." On the other hand the Prime Minister must be thinking that in 50 years time people in Bethnal Green will look back to the good old days of 1999, when they walked in and out of each other's front doors, got round the piano and sang "It just ain't fair/Tu on weidare/With not a penny spare/But I can't care/care Tony Blair has let us 'ave a mayor, Wahyey."

LOOK OUT!

CLOSE ON-COUNTERS

of the ale kind. Mysterious, smooth talking stranger seen in the bar. Was it a UFA? Contact Moulder Box 1824.

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History woman... Bosse-Griffiths cast a novelist's eye on pharaonic Egypt

Kate Bosse-Griffiths

Cults and Celts

IN HER long and productive career as an Egyptologist, writer and museum curator, Kate Bosse-Griffiths, who died aged 87, brought to her interpretation of pharaonic religion and art the perception of a practised novelist.

She was born at Wittenberg-am-Elbe, into an enlightened Lutheran family and studied classics and Egyptology at Berlin, Bonn and Munich universities, graduating in 1935 with a doctoral thesis on Egyptian sculpture of the Late Dynastic Period. She joined the staff of the Berlin state museum in 1936, but was forced to quit within a year because of her mother's Jewish origins and sought asylum in Britain. Her mother died in Ravensbrück concentration camp.

Bosse-Griffiths taught for a year in the department of Egyptology at University College, London, and assisted at the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology. In 1938, as a senior member of Somerville College, Oxford, she was attached to the Ashmolean Museum's antiquities department; Norman never did.

John Gwyn Griffiths, now professor emeritus of classics and Egyptology at the University of Wales, and they married in 1939.

Bosse-Griffiths immersed herself in the political and cultural life of her adoptive country. She was the prime mover in founding the Cadogan Circle, which met at the Griffiths' first home in the Rhonda, and gathered together such writers as Penelope Davies and Rhydian Williams, fellow supporters of the nationalist and pacifist cause.

In 1941, she published a first novel, *Amesmyth Hoen* (Unesmy Joy), which was notable for the innovative feminism that was to characterise her subsequent study of education, *Mothers' Guilds: The Heart is at the Helm* (1957), and her collection of short stories, *Chances of a Story: A Novel* (My Sister Eve and Other Stories, 1944), and *Caradoc* (Scott's Love, 1989). At the same time, other books explored social and political questions about central Europe.

Her husband's appointment in 1946 to the classics department at University College, Swansea, brought Bosse-Griffiths to her permanent and congenial base. For 50 years, until her death, she served as

honorary curator of archaeology at the Museum of the Royal Institution of South Wales, wrote scientific and popular articles on the prehistoric, Roman and medieval collections in her care, and on Glamorgan's surviving monuments of those periods. More broadly based was *Byd y Dyn Hysbys*, a 1977 study of "wise men" in traditional Welsh society and of their psychic and therapeutic gifts.

Meanwhile, Bosse-Griffiths continued to produce articles and reviews in the *Journal of Egyptian Archaeology* and other periodicals; whilst, for a more popular audience, there was her portrait of Egypt in *Ancient and Recent Times*, *Typhosaurus of Ahi* (Ears of Corn from Egypt), published in 1970. As an authority on the Amarna period of pharaonic history and the elusive life of its "heretic" king, Akhenaten, she collaborated with the Egyptian scholar, A.M. Bakir, on a comprehensive survey of relevant material in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. She also translated the German text of Eberhard Otto's *Egyptian Art and the Cults of Osiris and Anubis* (1968).

Perhaps the greatest challenge of her career, came in 1971 when Bosse-Griffiths was instrumental in obtaining a substantial proportion of Sir Henry Wellcome's collection of Egyptian antiquities for Swansea's classics department. Most of the 3,000 objects had never received scholarly attention and, for the next 26 years, Bosse-Griffiths, as the Swansea Wellcome Museum's honorary curator, almost single-handedly rehabilitated the collection and extended it by transfers from other institutions. Her work culminated with the completion of the collection's purpose-built accommodation.

Kate Bosse-Griffiths combined a vigorous intellect and strength of character, with considerable personal charm, quick humour — and an irrepressible vitality. The establishment of the museum on a secure foundation is a testimony to her steadfastness of purpose, and to the gift of sharing with others her undiminished enthusiasm.

She is survived by her husband, two sons, and seven grandchildren.

VA Donahue

Kate Bosse-Griffiths, Egyptologist, curator, writer; born July 16, 1910; died April 4, 1998

Tom Cora

Music at the edge

TOM CORA, who has died from melanoma aged 44, was one of the key figures to emerge from New York's late 1970s avant-garde scene. He described himself as "a musician who happens to play cello", but he could draw on a technique that redefined every context.

Cora was born in Yancey Mills, Virginia. By the mid-1970s, while working as a guitarist in a Washington jazz club, he took up the cello and studied with Louis Garcia-Renart, an ex-student of Pablo Casals, and later with the vibraphonist Karl Berger at the Creative Music Studio, in New York State.

Cora constructed instruments for, and played in, the Moose Skowron Memorial Tuned Metal Ensemble, toured Europe with a group led by Berger that included Lee Konitz and Don Cherry, and formed the band, Curlew, with George Cartwright and Bill Laswell, playing screwball art-rock.

By 1979, Cora had gravitated to New York. With Steve Beresford and Fred Frith, he was part of the group that performed Eugene Chadbourne's *The English Channel* and John Zorn's *Archeology*, works which exploded notions of what was possible in music. Informed by a sense of absurdist humour, intellectually rigorous, they emphasised techniques of non-idiomatic improvisation at which Cora was adept, while retaining a sense of deep structure. This attention to form, combined with a rule-breaking approach to content, characterised Cora's career. There was a hint of American Gothic in his sardonic good looks, and he had a compelling stage presence.

In the early 1980s, he toured North America's live-bare and honky-tonks in Eugene Chadbourne's "shockabilly" group, the Chadbourne's. In 1982, with the guitarist and multi-instrumentalist Fred Frith, he formed Skeleton Crew, touring as a "double one-man band", each adding to their respective instruments. Cora was also active in a marching-band project, which he led in protests against US policies in central America.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, he released two solo albums, *Live at the Western Front* and *Curlew in Limbo*, which drew on Casals and the Bahamian folk guitarist Joseph Spence, and used elaborately prepared and electronically modified cello. With Cartwright he reformed Curlew, and toured Europe. He also formed the "virtual trio" Third Person with percussionist Sam Bennett, which featured guests such as Mark Ribot and Steve Lacy. With one eye on his R&B roots and the other on eastern European folk music, he collaborated with the Dutch anarchist band, the Ex, on *Scrabbling at the Loct*, which unexpectedly, but deservedly, won the 1991 Dutch Popular Music Award.

Later, Cora moved to southern France, and worked with the Marseilles A.M. new music organisation. He was also a member of the post-rock quartet, Roof.

He is survived by his wife, the singer Catherine Janniaux, and their son.

Ed Baxter

Thomas Cora (Tom Cora), musician, born September 14 1953; died April 9, 1998

Death Notices

ATYNSON, Geoffrey, retired lecturer, Durham University, beloved husband of Marie, died suddenly in Woking on April 30th. Memorial service will be held at St John's Church, Woking, on Tuesday May 26th. Donations in the family name may be made to the British Heart Foundation.

BEVLY, Gordon, 82, of 10, St. George's, London, died on April 2nd, 1998, after a long illness. He was a member of the Royal Society of Medicine and a past president of the Royal Society of Medicine. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and their children, David and Susan. A private funeral service will be held at 11am on Friday May 8th at 11am. All enquiries to Mrs. Gordon Bevely, 10, St. George's, London, SE17 6JH.

LOVING, Trevor Arthur, 80, of 10, St. George's, London, died on April 2nd, 1998, after a long illness. He was a member of the Royal Society of Medicine and a past president of the Royal Society of Medicine. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and their children, David and Susan. A private funeral service will be held at 11am on Friday May 8th at 11am. All enquiries to Mrs. Gordon Bevely, 10, St. George's, London, SE17 6JH.

Norman Whybray

Living by the Book

NORMAN Whybray, who has died aged 74, was one of the most distinguished of modern-day Old Testament scholars.

Ordained in 1946, he worked in theological colleges, notably in Japan, where he built up important links with the small but influential Christian community. But disillusioned with church bureaucracy, he turned to the scholarly world and became professor of the Old Testament at Hull University and head of its theological department. Having then discovered that academic bureaucracy can be at

least as frustrating, he took early retirement in 1982. Thus began an immensely fruitful period. He had already written several books, and more followed, exploring both the wisdom tradition of the Old Testament and the composition of its first five books, the Pentateuch. He also became general editor of a series of Old Testament guides, a great standby for students, setting out the main issues under dispute in each book of the Old Testament. He was a meticulous editor.

His written work will be his abiding memorial, and he was recognised in the wider world of scholarship in 1997, when he was awarded the Burdett Medal of the British Academy. He exercised an important role within biblical links with the small but influential Christian community. But disillusioned with church bureaucracy, he turned to the scholarly world and became professor of the Old Testament at Hull University and head of its theological department. Having then discovered that academic bureaucracy can be at

positions. The Society for Old Testament Study, of which Norman was president while at Hull, provides an context in which people holding these differing views can meet and argue. That they are able to do so in a relaxed and friendly way owes much to him.

A volume of essays in his honour was published in 1993. One word occurred several times; it was "common-sense". Too often in a religious context people take leave of common sense; judgments; Norman never did.

His well-proportioned body bore testimony to his love of fine food and good French wine, but he had a big mind as well. He married twice. Hélène, his first wife, did much to develop his love of France, and her death in 1978 was a grievous blow, as was that of their adopted son, Peter. He remarried: Mary Carmack, a long-lost friend from his youth, and she survives him.

Richard Coggins

Roger Norman Whybray, biblical scholar, born July 26, 1923; died April 15, 1998

Ayatollah Shaykh Murtadha al-Burujerdi

Martyr for the Shi'ite cause

THE life of Ayatollah Shaykh Murtadha al-Burujerdi, who was gunned down by unknown assailants in Najaf, Iraq, at the age of 66, was the epitome of the violent government campaign against him.

He was one of the most renowned scholars that Najaf, one of Islam's holiest cities, has produced this century. He spent most of his life in the cloistered world of the 1,000-year-old Hawza al-'Ilmiyya, (Islamic seminary) in the city of his birth, and was arguably that ancient university's most senior faculty member. Yet he was an unassuming man, of social and cultural insight, described to me by one student as "a man who knew and loved the people he led, not only in prayer but also in example".

At Najaf, Burujerdi studied

under the late spiritual leader of Shi'ite Muslims, Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Abulqasim al-Musawi al-Khoei, who described him as an exceptional student. It was to Burujerdi that al-Khoei entrusted his works, and he analysed and interpreted, including the *Musnad al-Uthman al-Wahidi*, an exegesis relating to the collectivity of Islamic laws. This 10-volume work is the standard universal text for the highest stage of teaching in Shi'ite Islamic jurisprudence.

Although born in his beloved Najaf, near the shrine of Imam Ali ibn Abi Talib, the cousin and son-in-law of the Prophet Muhammad and the first infallible Imam of Shi'ism, Burujerdi originated from a village near Burujerdi in Iran. His father, Grand Ayatollah Shaykh Ali Muhammad, was one of the leading lights of the Najaf Hawza and a Marja' at-Taqlid, or "source of emulation".

Burujerdi was for a long time favourite to become the next Marja' at-Taqlid. This is the most senior spiritual position within Twelver (Ithna' Asheri) Shi'ism. It should be free from external political influence. Yet the Iraqi government had long imposed its own unwelcome and unrecognised and largely unqualified candidate.

Burujerdi was, to many observers, the natural candidate and had already completed the writing of his own book of edicts, or *fatwas*, which many Shi'ites would have relied upon in questions relating to the practise of their religion. Like so many of his illustrious predecessors, Burujerdi was what many commentators refer to as a "quietist", aloof from politics and devoted to spiritual service. Believers flocked to hear his sermons. Yet, in 1991, immediately following the uprising against the Saddam Hussein regime, Burujerdi was one of the many clerics arbitrarily detained.

Lately, there was evidence that Ayatollah Burujerdi had been the victim of a vicious campaign of intimidation by the Iraqi authorities, in which he was, on occasions, threatened with death if he did not give up leading congregational prayers at the mosque of Imam Ali. His was an apolitical religious role — akin to the leading of Sunday worship by a senior archbishop — but the Iraqi government considered it tantamount to subversion.

Another possible reason for

al-Burujerdi...apolitical

his assassination was the perception among the higher echelons in the Ba'ath Party that the Marja' at-Taqlid, by its very existence, posed a threat to Iraq's totalitarian government because of its popularity among ordinary Iraqis, both Shi'ite and non-Shi'ite. In the past two years, according to the London-based Al-Khoei Foundation, there had been two attempts on the Ayatollah's life.

It was the failure of such assassination attempts that led ministry of Awqaf (religious disbursements) representatives to threaten Burujerdi with execution if he did not stop his congregational activities. Characteristically, Burujerdi ignored these warnings, and told the officials that they should provide him with an official letter preventing him from carrying out religious duties.

His killing has sent shockwaves through the Islamic community, particularly as it occurred on the eve of the holy month of Muharram. His death, should similarly stir the international community to combat the systematic persecution of Shi'ite clerics in Iraq. Since the 1991 uprising, more than 100 have "disappeared", according to Amnesty International and other human rights organisations.

Burujerdi is survived by his wife, three daughters and a son.

Sayyid Nadeem Kazmi

Ayatollah Shaykh Murtadha al-Burujerdi, scholar and jurist, born 1931; died April 22, 1998

A Country Diary

CHILDREN: This is another year when much of the May blossom opened on May Day. It seems not so long ago that we had regularly to wait until June before the hawthorn bloomed. Climate change may have nudged the blossom forward, but between flower and month that was broken by the calendar revision of 1972, when, to bring the system back into harmony, 11 days were simply done away with, so that the "natural" May Day fell on the new May 12. It's hard for us to understand the reverence in which this scruffy bush was once held. In the middle ages, it was the most important landmark species in the country, figuring in charter and boundary descriptions three times as frequently as oak, and being the commonest tree featured in English place names. It has also been an important symbolic species,

its foliage draping Jack-in-the-Green on May Day, and foaming from the mouths and ears of the Green Men carved in inns and churches. How to explain such significance for such a lowly tree? Its original blooming close to the Celtic spring festival of Beltane may be part of the answer. So may the pointed coincidence of thorns and red berries. But the scent of the flowers may be its most potent attribute. To modern noses, they smell of roses. To our ancestors, they were also reminiscent of corpses. No wonder they became such redolent but ambiguous outdoors but harbingers of death indoors. In the same way, Green Man carvings, so often ambushed by hawthorn foliage, seem simultaneously to warn against and revere nature's exuberance.

RICHARD MABEY

Birthdays

John Akker, former general secretary, NATFHE, 55; Sir John Arnold, former president of the Family Division, 83; Tony Blair MP, Prime Minister and leader of the Labour Party, 45; John Bond, cricketer, 66; Susan Brown, actress, 52; Fred Rosemary Crazup, Saxons archaeologist, 69; Alessandra Ferri, ballerina, 35; Neil Foster, cricketer, 36; John Hutton, Labour MP, 43; Eleanor Platt, QC, barrister, 60; Freddy Randall, jazz trumpeter, 77; Alan Rose, author, poet, editor, London Magazine, 76; Sonia Rykiel, fashion designer, 68; Graeme Souness, football manager, 45; Elizabeth Sellars, actress, 75; The Rt Rev John Taylor, former bishop of St Albans, 69; Norman Whiteside, former footballer, 33.

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

IN A COLUMN by Roy Hattersley headed, *Endpiece: The Queen of Bats*, Page 14, May 4, we said, referring to the Stormont peace agreement, that George Mitchell, John Bruton and Tony Blair worked wonders. That should have been George Mitchell, Bertie Ahern and Tony Blair, although Roy Hattersley did also intend to acknowledge the part played by both Mr Bruton and Lord Alderdice.

AN ITEM headed, *On your bike*... Page 8, *Guardian Travel*, May 2, said that CycleCity Guides, offering safe cycling routes for city dwellers, were published by

Ordnance Survey. That is not the case. The guides are produced exclusively by Ordnance Survey for CycleCity Guides, which are published by Dome Publishing Company, 3/4 Zig Zag, Clevedon, Bristol BS21 7EL; telephone 01275 343468.

DOMINIQUE Aury, Obituaries, Page 13, May 4, translated the Japanese author Yukio Mishima (not Mishim).

It is the policy of the *Guardian* to correct errors as soon as possible. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor, Ian Moyses, by telephoning 0171 235 5939 between 11am

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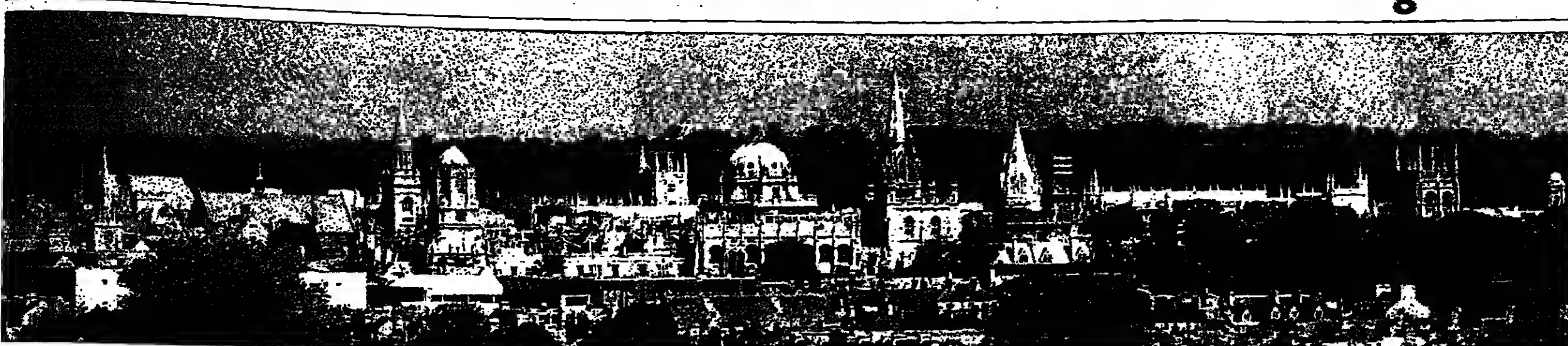
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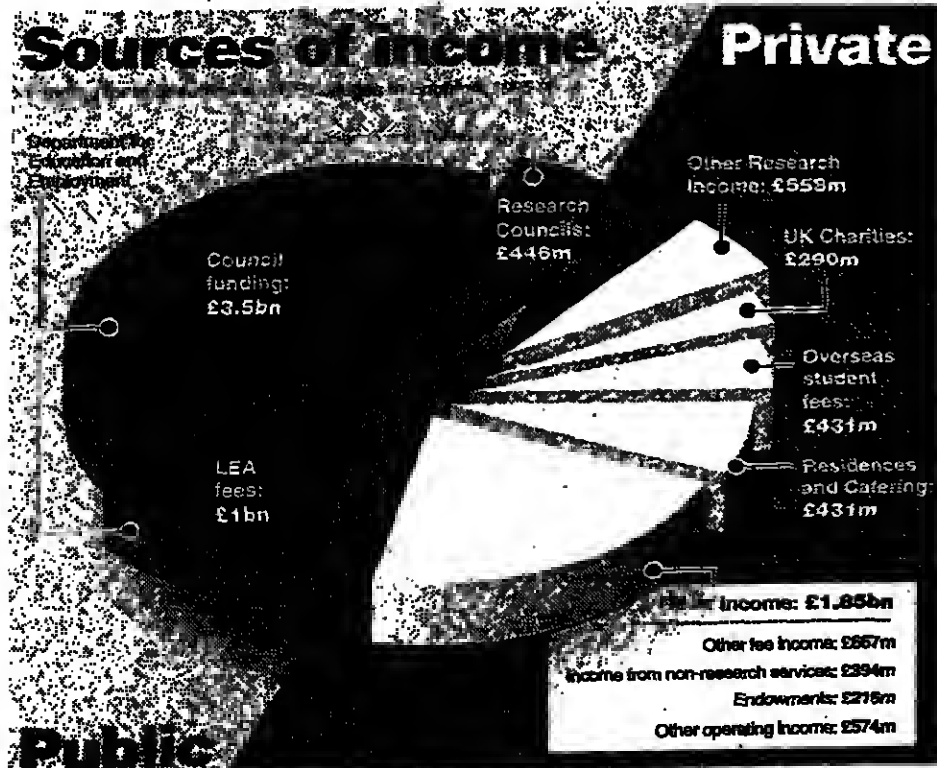
Analysis University funding



Are the dreaming spires becoming greedy spires? Our cash-strapped seats of learning stand accused of grabbing any funds without bothering if dubious strings are attached.

By Donald MacLeod

Take the money, but check the source



IF SHELL UK hoped to start a debate with its donation to an academic institution, it certainly succeeded. Protests at the group's sponsorship of the Centre for Philosophical Studies at King's College, London and the embarrassing withdrawal of a distinguished visiting lecturer because of Shell's involvement, have raised awkward questions about the growth of private funding in universities.

Seen as a threat to academic freedom and autonomy by some in the profession, support from business and industry is regarded by others as not only necessary in the current funding climate but a positive good, obliging academics to engage with the real world. And a powerful current of opinion, especially in the elite institutions, sees a multiplicity of funding sources as a counter to the power of the state at a time when the Government is demanding more detailed accountability on where taxpayers' money is going.

At present British industry spends about £180 million on research in higher education institutions, about 5 per cent of its research budget, found Sir Ron Dearing's inquiry published last year (1). This is about the same proportion as American universities receive from their industry.

The report expected this to grow, and indeed sought to encourage it. "If they relationship between industry and higher education deepens over the next two decades through the growing recognition of the mutual advantage of collaboration, the aim should be to double this figure. This however will only be achieved if UK higher education institutions are able to offer relevant research supported by adequate infrastructure."

At first Shell's donation to the King's College centre went to fund a conference on philosophy for children — a worthy enough event which attracted little interest outside educational circles.

The centre followed it up this year with lectures and discussions on the environment — something the company thought might provoke reflection by its engineers, though it did not put forward the idea to the organisers. "We certainly got publicity but it wasn't quite what we were expecting," admitted Shona Falconer, Shell UK's community affairs manager. Protests at the sponsorship arose because of Shell's involvement with the Nigerian military government and oil extraction in the Ogoni region, scene of bitter conflict and environmental damage.

Last week Professor Peter Singer, of Monash University, Australia, withdrew from a lecture at King's College in

protest. "In view of Shell's appalling record of environmental damage, its lack of respect for the rights of the Ogoni people of the Niger delta, from whose land it takes much of its oil, and its involvement with the Nigerian military regime responsible for the deaths of Ogoni protesters, including the playwright Ken Saro Wiwa, I was not willing to receive support from any Shell company," he declared (2).

Prof Singer then went to the heart of a dilemma which increasingly troubles what used to be known as the ivory towers: how to reconcile academic freedom and business sponsorship? Government funding has not kept pace with the expansion of higher education. So students must start paying and academics must hustle for research contracts and appeal to benefactors.

To Prof Singer this is deplorable. "No matter how much a university may protest that money comes with no strings attached, when a centre for philosophy becomes dependent on funding from a corporation like Shell, there is a real danger that the nature of the funding could have an influence, consciously or not, on the activities of philosophers in the centre."

THE centre's director, John Milton, pointed out it was entirely separate from the university's philosophy department and would not exist without financial support from outside. The centre recognised Shell's generosity on its publicity material but retained complete independence from Shell over its activities and the control of its programme.

The centre's connection with Shell had enabled a dialogue with the company. "All our dealings with Shell have led us to believe that the company wishes to open up the debate about the environmental and ethical issues. I recognise the potential dangers inherent in British universities' increasing dependence on private sector finance but I can assure Prof Singer that Shell has been meticulous in respecting the academic freedom of the Centre for Philosophical Studies," said Dr Milton.

This cuts no ice with the Campaign for Academic Freedom and Academic Standards which is profoundly concerned about the penetration of universities by institutions with quite different interests. It was not a question of the sincerity of an individual academic but whether this sort of sponsorship undermined academic autonomy said Colwyn Williamson, spokesman for the campaign.

"Individuals feel they are not selling out but the system is academically unacceptable. It

is impossible not to take financial considerations into account at every twist and turn. The name of the game is getting funding and everyone is being pressured. It has always been possible to buy one or two individuals but now the universities are up for sale."

In the past, governments provided funding through the University Grants Committee without interfering, said Mr Williamson. "As soon as they started prattling about meeting the needs of society, in other words, tailoring universities to industry it became a different story." But the state still provided a buffer against the direct influence of commerce.

What do companies hope to get out of academic contacts? Shell spends £3.6 million a year in universities but most of it goes on research contracts with clearly defined goals where both the company and the scientists involved know where they stand. It also supports lectureships in subjects related to its interests such as project management at Edinburgh and chemical engineering at Oxford.

Only £150,000 goes on public affairs programmes such as the King's College centre, which have broad educational aims and also seek to enhance the company's reputation. Shell was approached by King's and liked the idea. "We have made no attempt to influence how they spend the money. It was a very easy way for them to get quite a lot of money — all they did was put our logo on their literature," said Ms Falconer.

Universities like Oxford and Cambridge have had centuries of experience of dubious characters bearing gifts with strings attached. As vocational institutions supplying trained clerks for the legal and medical professions and, above all, for the church, Oxford colleges knew which side their bread was buttered on. Well into the 19th century all students had to swear to the 49 Articles of the Church of England — which is why Dis-

senter went to Scotland's four thriving universities.

Some funding was made for "reputational" reasons akin to Shell's. Balliol College, for instance, was founded at Oxford by the widow of John de Balliol in penance for his kidnapping of the Bishop of Durham. As he was the master of serfs and also a baron who had helped crush Simon de Montfort's attempt at English Parliamentary rule, his foundation was an odd example of academic freedom.

This ignominious fact was dredged up during a furious row two years ago over a bequest of £435,000 to the college from Gert-Rudolph Flick, whose grandfather's firm used slave labour under the Nazis. In the subsequent outcry Dr Flick, nicknamed Muck, withdrew his donation.

AT THE same time Cambridge found itself bitterly divided over accepting £1.6 million "tobacco money" from BAT Industries to endow the Sir Patrick Sheehy Chair of International Relations. In the event that went to a vote of the 3,900 dons and was accepted.

Oxford, on the other hand, had a "no tobacco money" rule when it was amassing its £342 million appeal, according to its director Henry Drucker. The university's medical links, and the fact that Professor Sir Richard Doll, who discovered the connection between smoking and lung cancer was at Oxford, ruled out gifts from that source.

Other potentially dubious donations were referred to an ethics committee by Dr Drucker. What is acceptable changes over time, in his view. Tobacco money would once have been all right, while 15 years ago South African funds would have been outlawed because of apartheid.

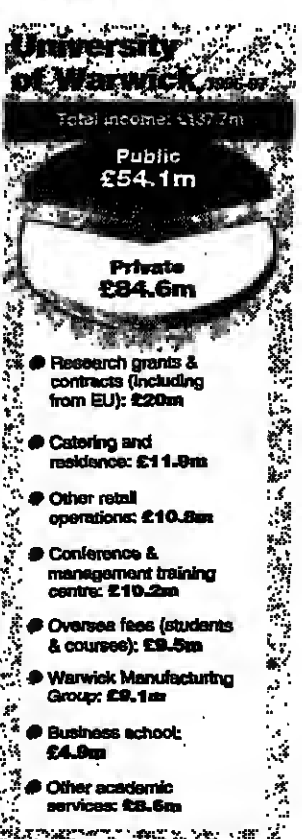
Drucker strongly believes fundraising can increase academic freedom by diversifying sources of support so no single

donor — including the government — has disproportionate influence. "The institutions that have compromised themselves are the ones that are new to the game and dealing with their first or second big donor."

As the academics debate, the world around them is changing fast. Last week British Aerospace took business sponsorship a stage further by opening its own "virtual university" for its 40,000 employees. It has the clout to buy not just the research but the courses it wants — and it is not confining itself to Britain. If universities here do not come up with the goods it will shop in North America or Australia or the emergent Pacific Rim universities.

Academics will also face new customers nearer to home this September: their students. Now they are forking out £1,000 for the privilege of their lectures and tutorials, paying students may well be more vociferous in demanding value for money. The scale of that upheaval could put the Shell row in the shade.

Sources: (1) National Committee of Inquiry into Higher Education July 1971; (2) Letter to the Guardian, 29 April, 1998. Graphics: Awareness Profiles of Higher Education Institutions; Higher Education Funding Council for England, 1997; Universities of Cambridge, Oxford and Warwick. Graphics: Paddy Allen; Steve Villiers. Research: Matt Keating. Donald MacLeod is editor of Guardian Education.



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FinanceGuardian

Brown to play yellow card

IMF 'must shame tardy reformers'

Mark Atkinson
in Kuala Lumpur

GORDON Brown will urge the International Monetary Fund today to lift its traditional veil of secrecy and issue public "yellow cards" to countries that resist implementing economic reform.

In a speech in Indonesia the Chancellor will say that the public identification of errant

governments would "greatly increase" the Fund's influence and encourage prompt action in times of crisis.

The Fund has usually kept secret its dealings with countries in difficulties to avoid upsetting the financial markets. Mr Brown will say confidential discussions should take place initially but if countries do not respond adequately the IMF should invoke "tard" responses, ending in the public humiliation of a yellow card.

Mr Brown's remarks foreshadow a report on lessons to be learnt from the Asian financial crisis, due to be published at next weekend's Birmingham summit of leaders from the Group of Eight industrialised countries.

The report is expected to emphasise the need for greater openness in the IMF's dealings with governments, including publication of routine assessments of member countries. Individual governments at present choose whether to publicise the IMF's confidential reports on their economies.

Lack of timely and accurate data meant that not all early warning signs of the Asian financial crisis were noted.

The G8 is expected to say efforts should be made to im-

prove data-dissemination standards. If economies fail to meet those standards, details of their failure should be posted on the Internet.

Mr Brown believes that the IMF's enhanced power should be balanced by greater public scrutiny. He will say that the IMF should establish a full-time evaluation unit. "This would report directly to the Fund's shareholders and the public on the IMF's performance," he will say.

Among other expected G8 recommendations are:
□ Increasing the IMF's involvement in bail-outs so that firms are aware they must bear the costs as well as the rewards of their lending decisions. This could be done by ensuring there are adequate bankruptcy laws. Financial institutions should not be rescued by central banks unless there are real threats to the financial system as a whole.

proceeding too hastily with measures to liberalise their economies.

□ Strengthening national financial systems and corporate governance to combat problems like over-extended lending and excessive exposure to indebted borrowers. This would help banks and other lenders to assess the risks involved.

□ Increasing the IMF's involvement in bail-outs so that firms are aware they must bear the costs as well as the rewards of their lending decisions. This could be done by ensuring there are adequate bankruptcy laws. Financial institutions should not be rescued by central banks unless there are real threats to the financial system as a whole.

□ Enhancing co-operation between the IMF and the World Bank to get the best use from their combined resources.

Mr Brown will state that Indonesia, seen as the leader among the three South-east Asian countries forced to go cap in hand to the IMF, took a crucial step this week by agreeing to the Fund's demands for reduction in hefty subsidies on fuel and electricity in return for the resumption of financial aid.

He will warn the country that "the eyes of the world are upon it".

Mr Brown is to say: "It is vital that the authorities take this opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to securing the stability and reform which will be vital for the people of Indonesia."

Notebook

Strong stuff from a central banker



Edited by Mark Milner

NOBODY expected the Bundesbank's president, Hans Tietmeyer, to be happy about the fudge over the top job at the European Central Bank. Last night, Mr Tietmeyer let his unhappiness show.

Everything that had happened in Brussels had contributed to the expectations that the euro would be a "really supranational and de-politicised currency", he said, and the ECB "must demonstrate its independence of political influences".

Mr Tietmeyer reserved his huffiest response for the deal itself. It was a decision taken by the political authorities of which the Bundesbank took note. Enough said. There was even a swipe at demands from French MPs to hold regular consultations with ECB executive board members.

Mr Tietmeyer's comments would hardly merit inclusion in a lexicon of legendary invective, but for the discreet world of central bankers this is strong stuff.

Certainly it will do nothing to diminish market expectations that the Bundesbank might engineer a counter-strike in the shape of higher interest rates rather earlier than had been anticipated, as a demonstration of the central bank's independence.

Still, even in the world of central banks, it is an ill wind, as they say.

Worries about a Bundesbank rate rise, well-founded or not, have helped prevent the kind of flight to safe-haven currencies — the pound, the dollar and Swiss franc — that was expected to follow the political deal over the ECB presidency.

British policymakers, balancing a set of economic circumstances whose most salient feature is the strength of sterling, will have cause within limits — to be grateful. As if to emphasise the point, the pound slipped another three pence yesterday.

Watery outlook

ANY strength in water company shares during the forthcoming interim results season should be seen as an opportunity to sell. That is the message, at least, from Merrill Lynch's respected water analyst, Robert Bakewell-Miller.

Why? Essentially because the industry regulator plans to end the extremely profitable ride water company shareholders have had since privatisation in 1989.

There is no doubt that the industry, as Mr Bakewell-Miller says in his latest report, is facing a triple whammy of higher financing costs to fund the windfall levy, increased taxation and

lower profits. Much slower dividend growth seems almost inevitable.

Ian Byatt, the industry regulator, is planning a tough price regime for the first five years of the new millennium, with a sharp price-cut in the first year followed by more modest reductions thereafter.

No tears should be shed for shareholders. Even Mr Bakewell-Miller concedes they have had "supernormal returns" in recent years. But there should be some sympathy for Mr Byatt, who wants to use the savings to water charges but also wants the companies to fulfil their legal obligations on environmental and water quality issues, such as disposing of sewerage sludge, cleaning up bathing beaches and removing harmful chemicals from drinking water.

However, Mr Byatt and the government must not be tempted to blow the savings on lower bills, no matter how popular that might be. The environmental issues are pressing and should be tackled now, while money is available. Lower water bills should be on the agenda for the 2000-2010 price review.

Sage sayings

THE sage of Omaha did not become a billionaire without knowing a thing or two. Warren Buffett has stuck to things he reckons he understands, from soft drinks to silver. When he invests it tends to be in a big way, and he likes to keep his investments tucked away, rather than churning his portfolio.

That has meant that at times Mr Buffett has gone against the market trend — and he has won. Now he is going against the trend again. As he has been clear to shareholders in his Berkshire Hathaway fund this week, he will not invest in hi-tech companies because he does not understand them. He may be a fan of Microsoft's Bill Gates, but the appreciation does not extend to investing in his company.

Mr Buffett's reluctance to embrace high technology runs counter to Wall Street, where one sure way to get a better rating is to give your company a hi-tech spin.

But just how much does Wall Street know about technology? Analysts in the US reckon that if and when the Dow Jones Industrial Average hits 10,000 a lot of computer systems could crash, on the basis that, just as many systems do not recognise the millennium, nor can they cope with a five-digit index.

The real fear is that they may see 10,000 as 1,000, believe that the market has crashed and so execute waves of "sell" programmes.

Of course, hi-tech companies could do well out of correcting the software that does not recognise 10,000. They might even make quite a chunk of money out of it. But this time around, it would be Wall Street that would foot the bill.

That is not the way in which they do things in Omaha. A budding billionaire sticks to what he knows.

Coopers in dock over Maxwell

Dan Atkinson

FORMER Maxwell-empire accountants Coopers & Lybrand ought to have considered turning their back on Robert Maxwell three months before his death and possibly alerting the authorities to potential fraud within his publishing and media empire, it will be alleged before a disciplinary tribunal.

A central charge against Coopers from the accountancy profession's investigators is that by August 1991 Coopers ought to have been sufficiently aware of possible wrongdoing within Maxwell-group companies that they ought to have considered their position as auditors and even gone to the police.

Coopers are expected in the autumn finally to answer charges relating to alleged failings regarding their work for the group — seven years after the publishing tycoon died at sea. Coopers will face a prosecution team assembled by former Serious Fraud Office senior assistant direc-

from the profession or unlimited fines. Along with Coopers itself, four of its partners — whose identities have not been disclosed — face disciplinary action.

The Maxwell empire disintegrated in the wake of Robert Maxwell's death in November 1991 as it was discovered to have debts of about £2 billion. More than £400 million was missing from pension funds, although a prosecution in 1996 of Maxwell's sons Kevin and Ian, with others, on charges of conspiracy to defraud pensioners resulted in not-guilty verdicts.

Already the accountants' disciplinary machine has dealt with two accountants who worked for Maxwell, Michael Stoney, a former MGN director, and Jonathan Ford, a former director of the Maxwell investment company London & Bishopsgate International. In November last year Mr Stoney was expelled from the profession and Mr Ford was admonished.

Coopers, already facing legal action for more than £400 million from Maxwell-group liquidators Grant Thornton and Price Waterhouse, is being brought before the tribunal on charges relating to its work for:
□ Maxwell pension funds;
□ First Tokyo Investment Trust, a Maxwell-controlled investment company, along with London & Bishopsgate and Bishopsgate Investment Management, another Maxwell company;
□ Mirror Group Newspapers;
□ Robert Maxwell Group (RMG), the main "private-side" Maxwell company.

One surprising omission from the charge sheet is Coopers work regarding Maxwell Communication Corporation (MCC), the other main quoted company, alongside MGN.

MCC's shares were practically worthless in the aftermath of Maxwell's death. A possible explanation for MCC's absence from the charges is that, given the complexity of its affairs, the disciplinary machine thought it more effective to try to substantiate its case against Coopers through charges relating to the other companies.

Coopers said last night they were co-operating with the professional bodies represented in the disciplinary scheme. The burden of proof is on the scheme, which will be represented by John Goldring, QC.



Robert Maxwell... Fraud on a massive scale

tor Chris Dickson. A tribunal will hear the complaints. At the centre of the charge sheet against Coopers drawn up by Mr Dickson — who now heads the accountancy profession's disciplinary machine — is Coopers work for nearly all the key Maxwell companies, including Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN), itself the subject of a long-running Department of Trade and Industry inquiry.

A judge or QC chairs such disciplinary tribunals and is assisted by two accountants. Penalties can include expulsion of named accountants

True and fair?

THE profits in relying on company accounts for a "true and fair" picture of an organisation's state of health have been highlighted by a number of serious cases during the last decade.

Offices have insisted auditors ought to have been more rigorous; auditors have responded that they can work only with the figures supplied them. Whoever is to blame, investors have lost out.

□ 1987: Electronics giant **PERNANT** pays £420 million for US group International Signal and Control, a defence company that turns out to be nearly worthless;
□ 1988: Communications equipment leader **SOUND DIFFUSION** goes into receivership, its accounts overstated the amount due on its leases;
□ 1990: Property and shipping group **BRITISH & COMMONWEALTH** collapses with £1 billion in liabilities. It is brought down by a subsidiary, **ATLANTIC COMPUTERS**, bought for £400 million in 1988. Accounts failed to point out the huge cost of Atlantic's flexible leases;
□ 1990: **POLLY PECK**, the trading giant, slides into insolvency. Accounts had shown bumper profits throughout the late 1980s;
□ 1991: **BANK OF CREDIT AND COMMERCE INTERNATIONAL**. The biggest fraud in history, BCCI crashed with enormous debts. Black holes totalling \$13 billion were found after its closure by regulators. All the bank's capital was estimated to have disappeared by the late 1970s.

Art of the smart deal



Under the hammer: Renoir's painting Young Girl Holding a Bouquet of Tulips was due to be sold at Christie's last night, the auction house in which Joseph Lewis has sold his shareholding to a French investor for some £80 million

Lewis sells Christie's stake

Ian King

JOSEPH LEWIS, one of Britain's richest men, is in line to collect a profit of up to £80 million after yesterday agreeing to sell the majority of his 29.7 per cent stake in auction house Christie's International to the French investor, Francois Pinault.

Artemis, Mr Pinault's private holding company, announced yesterday that it has agreed to buy 49,445,000 shares for an undisclosed sum from Abel Inc, Mr Lewis's holding company.

The famously secretive Mr Lewis, whose personal fortune is estimated at between £1 billion and £2 billion, refused to comment on the transaction. But it is thought that the deal was struck at around 26p — just short of Friday's closing price — which, given that Mr Lewis started buying the shares at 16p, would give him a profit of almost 200 million.

The news follows the collapse, in February, of a bid for Christie's led by a consortium of investors which was headed by Mr Lewis.

The plans, which would have valued Christie's at around £500 million, fell apart after regulators apparently blocked proposals which would have allowed Mr Lewis to hoist his stake in the auctioneering house to around 40 per cent, without having to make a full bid.

The plans are also thought

PROFILE/The collector

THE acquisitive French millionaire Francois Pinault, who yesterday purchased a 29.7 per cent stake in Christie's for an undisclosed sum, is well known in artistic circles, writes Pauline Spragg.

He has long been a client of Christie's and is known as one of the world's leading collectors of modern art. A spokesman for Mr Pinault said the purchase, which will make the Frenchman the largest shareholder in Christie's, had been driven by a love of art and a belief that the art auction market was growing fast.

Mr Pinault was born in Brittany 62 years ago into a family in the timber business. He is said to be a private person who prefers to leave the day-to-day running of his business enterprises in the hands of highly capable management. But he keeps a close eye on each business and is very much the ultimate head of Artemis, the private company he owns.

Artemis has many interests, including Chateau La Tour vineyard, one of only five Premiers Grands Crus classes of Bordeaux. Mr Pinault also has a 42 per cent interest in Pinault-Printemps-Redoute, a publicly quoted French retail and distribution business. Its operations include the bookstore business FNAC, the Printemps stores, and the furniture distribution chain Conforama.

There is significant potential for its business and valuable expertise as the trade in works of art continues to grow around the world. The sale ends what has been a near four-year involvement with Christie's for Mr Lewis, who initially insisted that he was purchasing the shares merely because they were undervalued, rather than for any other purpose. In private, however, rumours continued that Mr Lewis — who lives in the millionaires' haven of Lyford

The entrepreneur also has substantial business interests in the US, all of which he owns. These include the luggage company Samsonite, several life assurance companies and a resort management group.

The deal puts an end to several months of uncertainty for the auction house. In February it withdrew from bid talks with SBC Warburg Dillon Read, over a possible bid from a private consortium. Christie's was founded in 1766 and last year overtook arch-rival Sotheby's as the world's biggest seller of fine art.

Last year Mr Pinault unsuccessfully tried to acquire the insurance company Worms et Cie

in the Bahamas — had demanded a seat on the board, or that he was a "stalking horse" for other potential bidders.

Mr Lewis will continue to have other UK interests, including a substantial holding in the English National Investment Company, which owns stakes in football clubs such as Glasgow Rangers, Slavia Prague, AEK Athens and Vicenza, and which recently signed a theme-restaurant deal with the American entertainment company, Warner Brothers.

Co-op reports doubled losses

Roger Cowe

CO-OPERATIVE Retail Services, the weaker half of the Co-op's retail empire, yesterday reported doubled losses for last year but claimed it was now on the road to recovery.

It said the poor results would not affect CRS resistance to a merger with its sister organisation, Co-operative Wholesale Society, which recently reported lower profits from its retail operations but is strengthened by ownership of the Co-op Bank and Insurance Society.

The CRS, which is looking for a new chief executive, is interested in offers for its remaining 17 superstores. The group made a loss of

£26 million last year, despite holding sales at £1.5 billion.

Financial chief Chris Thompson blamed lax controls during heavy refurbishment programme of the its supermarkets. But he said the improvements to 90 of the 470-strong chain had paid off, with dramatic increases in sales in converted stores.

The introduction of more fresh and chilled food, physical improvement of the stores and longer opening hours had produced an average 38 per cent increase in sales, as well as higher profit margins.

But Mr Thompson, who previously worked for Asda and Woolworth and was confirmed in his Co-op post yesterday, said the CRS was still performing poorly by industry standards.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.53	Germany 2.94	Malaysia 1.08	Singapore 2.29
Austria 2.33	Greece 504.34	Malta 0.63	South Africa 2.21
Belgium 29.57	Hong Kong 12.55	Netherlands 3.24	Spain 14.18
Canada 2.33	India 68.15	New Zealand 2.94	Sweden 12.54
Cyprus 0.85	Ireland 1.15	Norway 12.02	Switzerland 2.47
Denmark 11.09	Israel 1.58	Portugal 235.25	Turkey 402.00
Finland 5.67	Italy 2.57	Saudi Arabia 8.14	USA 1.5303
France 5.68			

Supplied by Reuters (excluding rupee, shilling and malawi)

صكنا من الاصل

Chester Jackpot card

CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
2.30	Blackberry
2.40	Blackberry
3.10	Blackberry
3.45	Blackberry
4.15	Blackberry
4.45	Blackberry

2.10 ROODEE HANDICAP STAKES 2YO	CH4
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry

2.40 CAPITAL BANK MAIDEN STAKES 2YO	CH4
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry

3.10 TOTE CHESTER CUP HANDICAP (SHOWCASE RACE)	CH4
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry

3.45 SHADWELL STUB CHESHIRE	CH4
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry

4.15 EVELYN DELVES BROUGHTON MAIDEN FILLES' STAKES 3YO	CH4
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry

4.45 CHESTER REGIMENT HANDICAP 3YO	CH4
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry

5.50 HOUTON SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE	CH4
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry

6.50 HUNTER CHASE (Amateur riders)	CH4
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry
121 (10) 114	Blackberry

Racing

Gulland lifts Vase but Derby form has cracks

GULLAND heat a rapid retreat in the Vodafone Derby yesterday after a short-lived victory in the Chester Vase. The colt, who won the Chester Vase on Tuesday, was sent to the post for the Epsom Derby but was beaten by the favourite, the 10-1 shot, in the final 100 yards and the Glow-Worm, staked-up by Pat Ed- dery in impenetrable style, all but caught him.

A stride past the post, the Glow-Worm was in front, but Gulland's head was down in the photograph and it was no more than an inch that he got the verdict.

Hills tended to blame a sluggish display from his pacemaker Ridgeway, al-



Hills... messed about

Intrigue to deny Top Cees

TOP CEES, subject of a controversial libel case earlier in the year, goes for a record third win in the Chester Cup today. But with 10th mares than he seems to be facing a tough task, writes Chris Hawkins.

The High Court case centred around his win in this race in 1995 when he scored as he liked after being only fifth at Newmarket last season and progressed to become a useful stayer.

His normal style is to get on in front and if he can do so from an admittedly poor draw today he will certainly stay out of trouble in

Musselburgh runners and riders

CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
2.00	Blackberry
2.30	Blackberry
3.00	Blackberry
3.30	Blackberry
4.00	Blackberry
4.30	Blackberry

Wetherby (N.H.)

TORY FALEY	TOP FORM
6.05	Blackberry
6.35	Blackberry
7.05	Blackberry
7.35	Blackberry
8.05	Blackberry
8.35	Blackberry

Chepstow (N.H.)

CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
2.30	Blackberry
2.50	Blackberry
3.20	Blackberry
3.50	Blackberry
4.20	Blackberry
4.50	Blackberry

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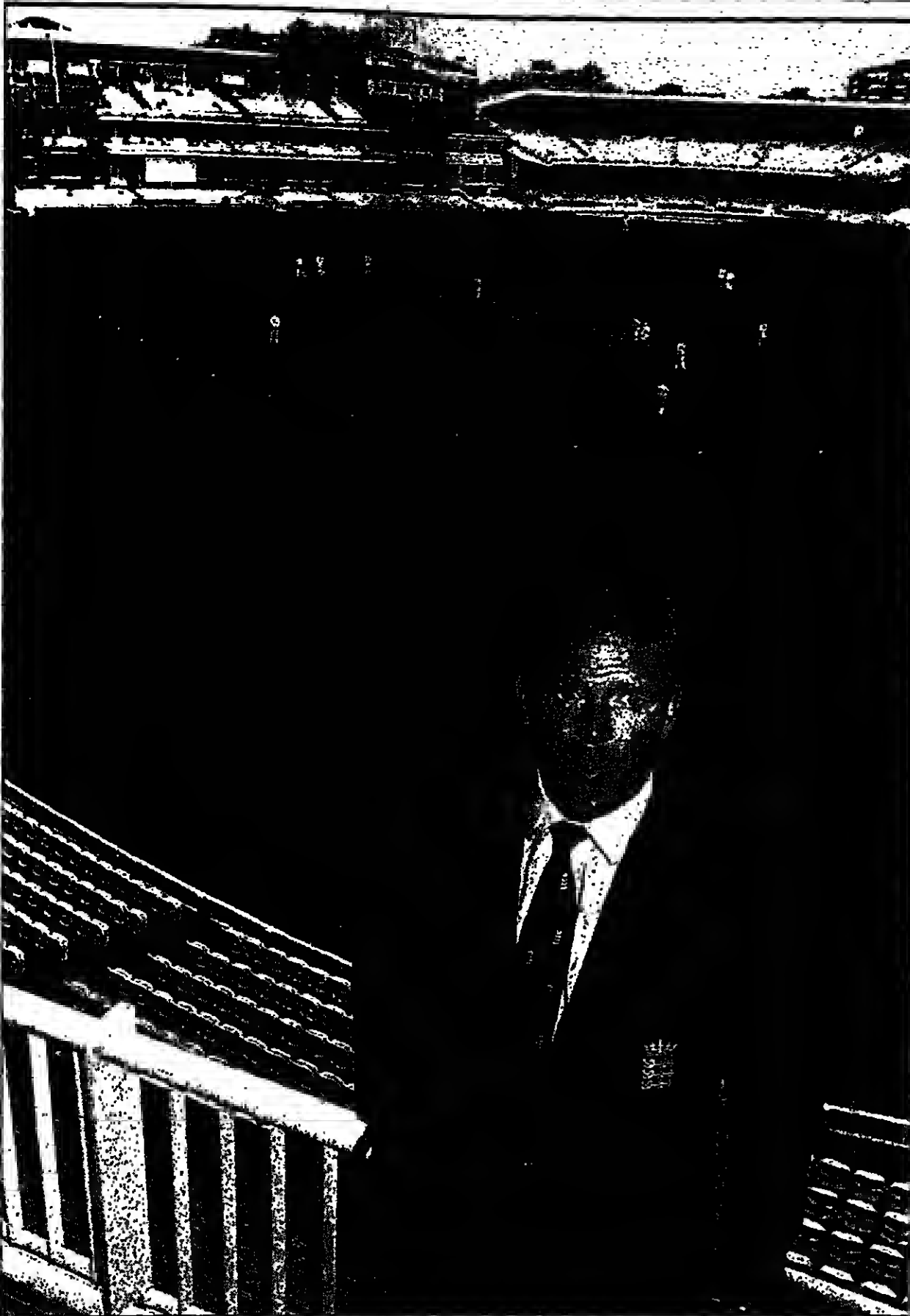
The Guardian **INTERACTIVE**

Gulland scrapes home at Chester, page 13
Adams the one-day wonder, page 15

Twickenham launches bite inquiry, page 14
McRae clings on to rally lead, page 15

SportsGuardian

Captains Stewart and Hoolioake kept apart



View from the top... Alec Stewart against a Lord's backdrop after his appointment yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENNINGS

England divided by dual ambition

Mike Selvey welcomes the selectors' decision to keep the Test campaign separate from their commitment to win the World Cup

By appointing Alec Stewart and Adam Hoolioake yesterday, the England selectors officially endorsed the principle of separate campaigns for Tests and one-day internationals, and their commitment to winning next year's World Cup.

As expected, Stewart will be Mike Atherton's replacement for the summer's six Tests but Hoolioake, Stewart's Surrey colleague and county captain, will remain in charge of the one-day squad, at least for the first series of the limited-overs internationals.

For once it places England in step with the Australians, who have announced their own dual campaign with the reappointment of Mark Taylor to the Test team and Steve Waugh for the one-day games.

Despite the credentials of a number of candidates — most notably Nasser Hussain, who was vice-captain for the last two winter tours — Stewart's appointment had been odds-on since Atherton resigned immediately after England were beaten in the final Test in Antigua at the end of March. Yesterday's press conference at Lord's merely rubber-stamped what had been an open secret.

"I've spoken with Nasser already on the telephone," said Stewart, "and we are looking forward to continuing to try to make England a consistently successful side. I think the most important thing is that England as a team have to learn to win. Mike Atherton has been working towards that, our coach David Lloyd has worked towards it and I will be doing so too."

"We need a will to win, players desperate for success and players very proud to play for their country. Not everyone, of course, would show that as passionately as me, but you do get a feel with players about how much they want to succeed."

The chairman of selectors David Graveney stressed Hussain's strong claim but said that, in the final analysis, they

had gone for Stewart's experience and the respect he commands among his colleagues and opponents alike. Hussain, he said, had been immensely disappointed but he would expect him to respond with dignity and determination.

"I phoned him and it was not one of the most pleasant experiences to tell a very valid candidate that he had not been chosen," said Graveney. "It was a very close decision. Although I did not feel it appropriate at the time to go into details, I will be seeing him in the very near future, will stress that he is a very important member of the team, and will point to Courtney Walsh's exemplary response to his own disappointment last winter when Brian Lara took over the captaincy of West Indies."

So Stewart has been given the task of leading in all five Tests against South Africa as well as the one-off Test against Sri Lanka, and Hoolioake, despite an unhappy series in the West Indies, has been named for this month's Texaco series, although the captaincy for the one-day triangular tournament involving England, South Africa and Sri Lanka in August has been left open.

Hoolioake said: "Some may read it as a trial, and maybe it is, but I can do no more than

my best and if that isn't good enough, so be it. We were outplayed [by West Indies] and deserved to lose, but I don't think what happened out there has changed my views on how to play one-day cricket. I think we need to execute our plans a bit better."

If ever there was an opportunity for the experiment to be allowed to continue this was it, no matter whether Stewart or Hussain had been appointed to the Test job.

Had Hussain been successful, then to change tack and go for one captain across the board would have placed him in the same embarrassing position as Atherton before his resignation when his place in the side on merit could not be justified. Hussain has not been a member of the one-day side since the tour to New Zealand.

Stewart, of course, is an integral and vital component in the one-day set-up, so in theory he is well qualified to do both jobs. But it is his versatility as an opening batsman, keeper and now Test captain, and the fact that Hoolioake, not Stewart, was first made an England captain, that leaves the way open for Hoolioake once more.

The selectors' desire to pursue a deliberate and separate

path towards the World Cup is to be applauded. Despite appearances in three finals, England have never won the trophy and, if success in Test matches remains vital, equally so is success in the World Cup, in terms of global prestige and the attraction of a new young audience to the game.

Hoolioake was first chosen to lead the one-day side during the quadrangular tournament in Sharjah before Christmas, which England won in some style. But although he appeared to have established his credentials as a first-rate manager and leader of character, intuition and calmness, he was overlooked for the job in the West Indies. Graveney was outvoted on the matter by his co-selectors Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting, despite the selection for the first time of a specialist squad to replace that from the Tests.

Atherton's resignation, in fact, gave Hoolioake a second chance by default, but a resurgent West Indies team, the absence of key players and his own poor form conspired against him; England lost 4-1 and at times, under fire, the captain looked lost. However, the World Cup is a year away and an undaunted Hoolioake is said to be a fast learner.

England's selectors have rarely been noted for instilling confidence or promoting continuity. Credit to them now.

The Stewart years

April 1968: born in Aston, South London.
June 1982: made his first century for Kent School Under-12s team against Devonshire School.
June 1984: made his first Test century in the first Test of the World Cup Final at Lord's.
August 1984: captain of Surrey (the county's first captain).
January 1985: Test debut in the first Test of the World Cup Final at Lord's.
June 1985: scored four Test centuries in the Test series against Sri Lanka.
February 1987: captained England in the first Test of the World Cup Final at Lord's.
June 1987: scored four Test centuries in the Test series against Sri Lanka.

captain from 1983 to 1987 until Nasser Hussain took over.
April 1984: became first Englishman to score two centuries in a Test match against the West Indies.
1986: leading England's Test cricket in the calendar year with 793 runs ahead of David Gower with 791.
1988: he was the top-run scorer on either side in the Test series against Sri Lanka. He scored 862 runs at an average of 45.20.
1989: he was the top-run scorer on either side in the Test series against Sri Lanka. He scored 862 runs at an average of 45.20.
Only one international (England) has been named as captain.



Paul Weaver

Be sure your sins and the cameras will find you out

EVEN those of us who have come to despise the intellectual fascism of political correctness have to draw the line somewhere. And I have. I have no truck with cannibalism. Which is why yesterday's picture of Paul Van Zandvliet, the Newcastle prop, apparently eating Neil Back, the Leicester flanker, was particularly disturbing. Unless it was a love bite.

If you are a 17-stone prop a bowl of mince with semi-skimmed is clearly not enough. If you are not a 17-stone prop you should eat

your breakfast before reading the tabloid newspapers. Back complained that he had also been bitten on the thumb. All this only four months after the Bath prop Kevin Yates was banned for six months for biting a chunk out of the ear of the London Scottish flanker Simon Penn.

There was another picture that did not go down too well with yesterday's boiled egg. It was of Emmanuel Petit, Arsenal's wonderful midfielder, raising his right trouser leg to reveal two parallel scars, which was not necessarily the double the Frenchman had in mind. Beside it was another little pic of the damage being done, on Sunday, by the Evertonian Don Hutchison's two-footed tackle.

The nation is still coming to terms with television pictures of Alan Shearer, aka Mary Poppins, presenting Leicester's Neil Lennon with a kick in the face which was almost as unforgivable as the excuses later proffered by the Newcastle forward, to the effect that it was, so to speak, an optical illusion.

Shearer, who had already been accused of kicking David Ginola and of breaking Ramon Vega's nose the previous Saturday, is not the only England captain to be caught out. In Barbados Michael Atherton made a cretinous V-sign

in the direction of the West Indies batsman Philo Wallace. What is it about sportsmen that convinces them, in an age when we can take close-ups of Jupiter, that they are peculiarly pre-camera, untouched by the wonders of the lens. That they can get away with murder? That they can not only shoot the messenger but also discredit his Kodak?

This is a cruel, biting, butting, gouging over-the-top and under-the-belt world and don't let anyone tell you different. Thanks to the increasing sophistication of the cameramen and his equipment we are, thankfully, seeing more of it.

This has not gone down well everywhere. We have people throwing their arms up and protesting about trial by TV, and the exposed complain about the mendacity of the optical device. When villains are blatantly identified a little *mea culpa* would be welcome.

EVEN the ubiquitous camera cannot flush out every sports cheat, however. It cannot spot athletes and swimmers who use drugs, although speed-blurred images might give a clue, and it cannot reveal bribery and betting scandals. And only a particularly well-positioned device would have revealed that Stella Walsh, winner of

the 1932 Olympics women's 100 metres in a world-record time, was in fact a man.

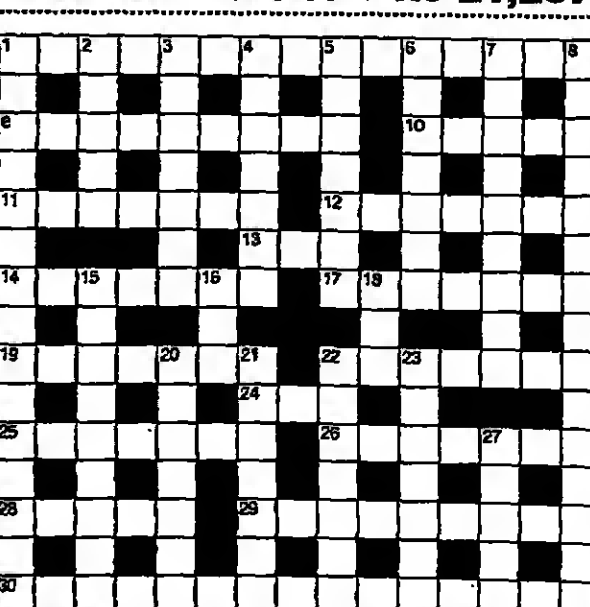
Camera-work today, however, is so refined that it does make you ask why sportsmen think they can indulge in a little physical assault in the middle of a match when no one is looking. Andy Melvin, executive producer of Sky's excellent football coverage, says: "At the FA Cup final on Saturday week we will have 30 cameras in action."

"As usual these will all be 'slaved' to videotape machines so that we have, on tape, anything that any of the cameras picks up, and not just what you are seeing on TV. A few years ago a match would be covered by just six or seven cameras."

"Now we have, in addition to the Steadicam, the unmanned remotely-controlled mini-camera which is about the size of a matchbox. There is still the problem that all these cameras basically follow the action and therefore anything that takes place off the ball that may not be picked up. But these days anyone who goes out there thinking he can do something in front of 50,000 people and 25 or more cameras and not be seen is daft."

There are, however, a lot of daft people out there. Just look at the back pages of yesterday's tabloids.

Guardian Crossword No 21,267



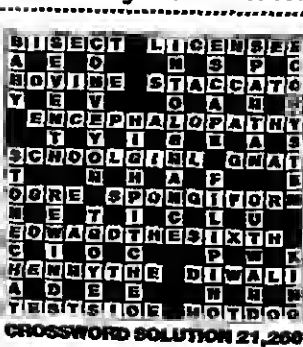
Across
1 French author's paper: Aurty Maud's translated (3,2,10)
9 Relation receives a reluctant peek for the fur? (8)
10 Put away the wine and take turn in the game (5)
11 Train entire University to get involved (7)
12 Being dodgy? (7)
13 Unhappy winter disorder (5)
14 13 reel off articles (7)
17 He's not exactly foiled (7)
19 Take it easy regarding cold occupation (7)
22 One taking role in "The Apple Cart" is televised (7)
24 The total's not all we hear (5)
25 Get together for the photo (5-2)
26 Ministers get free trips with points (7)
28 Girl's house in a state (5)

29 Pl, but not necessarily Greek (9)
30 Choosing where one lives? (6,7)

Down

1 Officer's rehearsal is the work of a non-specialist (7,8)
2 Bank up to get height for sailing type (5)
3 The river embraces the writer's output (7)
4 Eternal youth probably hopes to (7)
5 Go in first? In deep, or, caught unfortunately (7)
6 Class with coach bemuses upper class deficient in English (7)
7 The lady at centre of ruin restricts yearly payments (8)
8 State when no idea is apparent, no concern shown (15)
15 What's relied upon is a place for securing vessel (8)
16 Play could be associated with it (5)
18 Standard talk coming up (3)
20 Boa etc, one wraps round traveller in wintry conditions (7)
21 Box in school mainly used in paper production (7)
22 Tug taken in by a master's vessel (7)
23 Time the judge would be understood? (7)
27 Pinched exciting slot at end of programme (5)

Set by Quantum



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